



A guide to the Forestry Grant Scheme support for Agroforestry

Financial Support for small-scale woodland creation within sheep grazing pasture

Agroforestry can be described as an integrated approach to land management, where trees and agriculture co-exist to provide multiple benefits. Financial support is available through the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) to help you create small-scale woodlands within sheep grazing pasture.



Trees can:

- Provide shelter for livestock
- Extend outwintering
- Provide timber
- Increase biodiversity
- Enhance the landscape
- Generate income

Grant support

The grant has two payment types:

- A capital grant for initial establishment
- An annual maintenance grant that is paid for five years

The rate of capital grant you can claim depends on the number of trees that you plant per hectare. Two stocking levels and grants are available.

Planting density	Initial payment	Annual maintenance
400 trees/ha	£3 600/ha	£84/ha/year
200 trees/ha	£1 860/ha	£48/ha/year

The rate per hectare has been set to cover:

- purchase of trees and stakes
- purchase or construction of appropriate protection
- planning, site assessment, supervision, ground preparation, and planting

A contribution is also included to the cost of beating up and weeding.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for this grant you must own or lease the land the woodland will be created on. If you are a tenant or contractual licensee you must discuss the proposed application with your landlord to make sure it does not break the conditions of your tenancy of license and submit a Landlord Notification Form with your proposal. If you have a tenancy or a licence with less than five years to run you must complete and submit a Landlord Declaration Form signed by your landlord.

Do I have suitable land?

The minimum eligible area for funding support is 0.25 ha with a maximum of five hectares per farm business unit.

The land you intend to plant with trees, the eligible area, must be permanent grassland pasture (Land capability

for Agriculture – Class 3.1 to 4.2 inclusive) and have been registered as permanent grass (PGRS) on last year's Single Application Form.

It must also have appropriate soils to support growth of productive broadleaved species, such as oak, sycamore, cherry or beech.

Areas of open ground or shrubs are not eligible for this grant.

Grazing in the new woodland

The eligible area of new woodland can only be used for grazing sheep. You must not introduce cattle or other grazing animals on to the site for the life of the contract (20 years).

Trees must be protected from grazing by domestic and wild animals, evenly disturbed within the application area, and maintained at the initial stocking density for the duration of the contract.

Caring for your trees

You must commit to 10 years of maintenance to establish the trees you plant and carry out suitable pruning and management of them. This will enable successful tree establishment and pasture sward to thrive together. The aim of pruning is to get a minimum of four metres of clean stem.

Supporting information when applying

When applying for this grant you will need to provide details of your proposed plans for:

- Ground preparation
- Species choice
- Protection
- Maintenance schedule

Please use the template provided online and a map showing the perimeter of the agroforestry boundary, and clearly labelling claim year(s) and planting density.

For more information about the Forestry Grant Scheme, visit www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandgrants or 0300 067 5000.

