

SUPPORTING A BIODIVERSE, RICH ENVIRONMENT FROM THE ROOTS UP

Operation Biodiversity is part of Tirlán's Living Proof sustainability strategy and one of the many on-farm programmes to protect our land and deliver economic, social and environmental benefits for farm families for generations to come.



TIRLÁN FARMLIFE TARGETS OVER 450,000 NATIVE TREES AND HEDGEROWS BY 2025

Tirlán FarmLife, Tirlán CountryLife and their family farm suppliers have set an ambitious target of delivering 450,000 native trees and hedgerow plants to enhance the Irish countryside through the Operation Biodiversity programme.

In its first year, the initiative from Tirlán, the farmer-owned co-operative reached its original 100,000 tree and hedgerow target twelve months ahead of schedule.

To celebrate, it donated 10,000 native Irish trees to its farm family suppliers, customers and community groups.

Every tree makes a difference

“There’s space for nature on every farm and I’d encourage farmers to talk to our team of experienced horticulturists and discuss the best tree and hedgerow options to boost biodiversity on their farms. Every tree planted makes a difference.”

John Murphy, Chairperson of Tirlán

Sustainability Action Payment

Tirlán has launched a 0.5 c/ltr Sustainability Action Payment to assist its dairy suppliers in adopting a range of actions to enhance the environmental and economic sustainability of its network of family farms.

Specially-selected planting packages

Throughout the tree and hedgerow planting season, horticulturists in Tirlán FarmLife and Tirlán CountryLife Garden Centres and employees in their 52 local stores are helping farm families pick the right hedging plants and trees for their individual farms, providing shelter and food for wildlife while also boosting their sustainability credentials.

To help drive this initiative Tirlán FarmLife and Tirlán CountryLife have committed to deliver excellent value, including low-cost bundles, along with providing horticultural expertise to help guide on selection of trees and hedging, and planting.

Low Cost Bundles

Through Operation Biodiversity the excellent value bundles include a hedging mix of native Irish hedgerow plants specially selected by Tirlán FarmLife and Tirlán CountryLife horticulturists. Each bundle includes Blackthorn, Whitethorn, Hazel, Spindle and Mountain Ash trees.

The specially-selected, rich species tree bundle includes a mix of Birch, Alder, Oak, Mountain Ash and Scots Pine trees. Both packages are available through the Tirlán FarmLife network of branches and Tirlán CountryLife garden centres.



Alan Poole’s family have farmed near Gorey in Co. Wexford since the early 1700s. The former ecologist and father of three says their family farm is living proof that you can have a dairy enterprise amidst mature hedgerows, native Irish trees and a biodiverse rich landscape.

“The trees and hedgerows on our farm haven’t changed since I was a child. I have adapted my dairy farm around what has been here for generations. It doesn’t have to be either/or. In the past few years, we constructed a new network of cow roads but have almost fully maintained the mature hedgerows which are full of Hawthorn, Gorse, Ash and Oak.

“I’m a huge fan of Operation Biodiversity and we have a keen focus on water protection with the River Bann flowing through our farm.

Native tree and hedgerow plans

“It’s great to walk by the river and see trout, dippers and kingfishers. We’re also planning to plant some native trees and put in some new native Irish hedgerows along a cow road and establish a new hedge in a silage field to sub-divide it and to provide shelter for calves from any cool easterly wind in the spring.

“We are also planning a traditional orchard. This will be good for sustainability, for pollinators and a gift for whoever takes over once we’re done farming. Another measure we intend to do is to increase grass margins by some headlands to benefit biodiversity. This year we were involved with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and the benefits of having full hedges with a generous field margin and diverse range of plants was phenomenal.

“There has always been a huge appetite among farmers for initiatives like Operation Biodiversity. Farmers are improving farmyards, planting native Irish trees and hedgerows and working with nature every day.

Tree and Hedgerow planting sets Ireland apart

“There is even more momentum behind planting trees and hedgerows now as Irish farmers know they set us apart from farms anywhere in the world. Ask any farmer and they will tell you which is their favourite tree on their farm and will recognise it from any picture taken on their land. Farmers also now appreciate the value of trees and hedgerows to biodiversity and also the potential they possess in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

“I farm full-time along with my wife, Cheryl. My children, Isabelle and Danny, have a keen interest in biodiversity, which includes bat and barn owl conservation and the imminent erection of swift boxes on the gable end of a new shed.

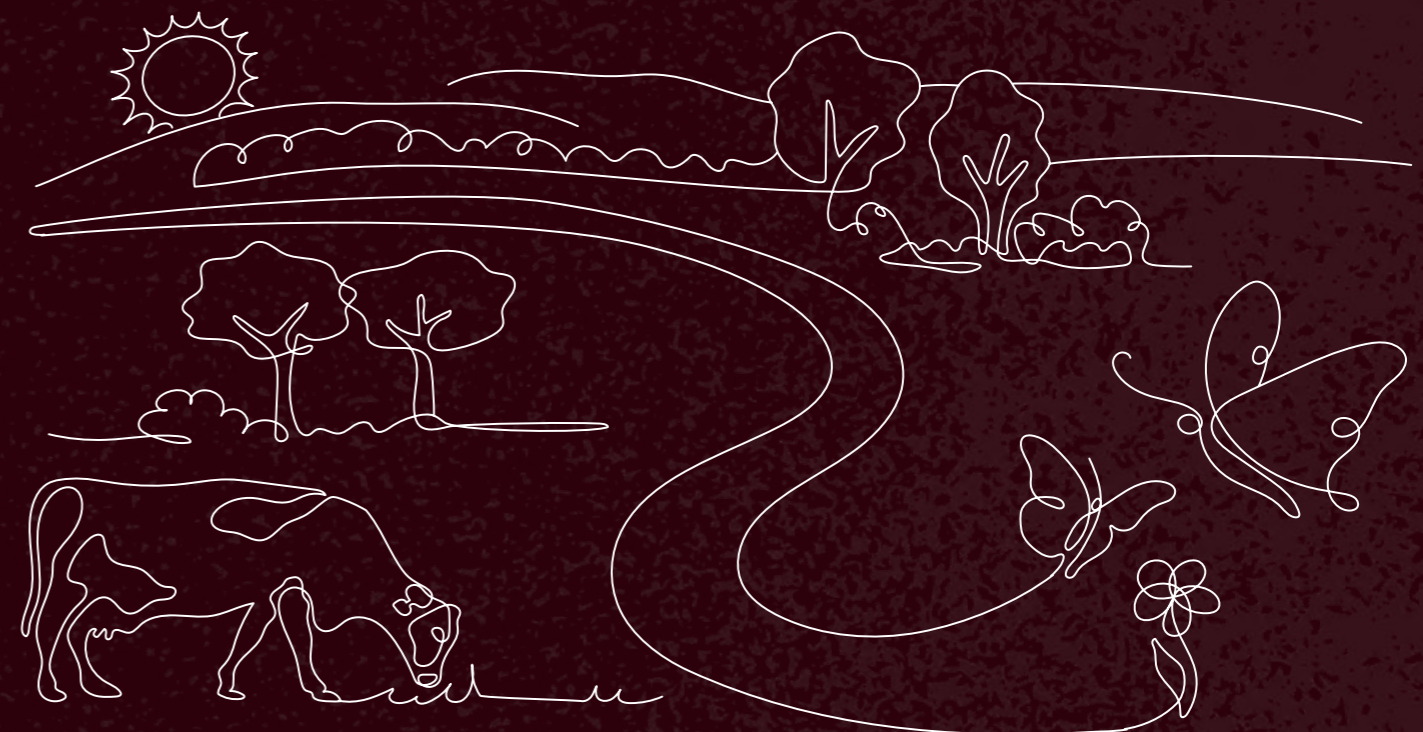
“Our eldest son Jakie has additional needs which doesn’t allow him to get stuck in, but he’s most content listening to the river from the bridge, or tending to jobs with me from his lofty perch in the tractor cab.

“Our children love being out in the farm rambling the fields with the dogs. We’re keen to protect what we have and to build on it for generations to come.”

Alan

Alan Poole, Gorey, Co Wexford

Alan is a trained ecologist with a PhD in conservation and has graduated from the Tirlán Baileys Sustainable Farming Academy at UCC.



WORKING WITH FARM FAMILIES, COMMUNITY GROUPS, SCHOOLS AND MORE, WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SUPPLY MORE THAN 450,000 TREES AND HEDGING PLANTS TO HELP IRELAND'S FAUNA AND FLORA THRIVE.

What does this mean for our environment?



VITAL POLLINATORS

- Hedgerows and trees provide pollen and nectar for our all-important pollinators. Hedgerows are vitally important as a food source, providing a place to breed and to over-winter.



WILDLIFE

- Hedgerows and trees provide a habitat for many small mammals such as hedgehogs and bats, supplying them with food, shelter and corridors of movement. Hedgerows are home to 55 out of 110 birds recorded in Ireland's wildlife.



WATER PURITY

- The root systems of trees and hedgerows regulate water movement and helps to prevent flooding. They also reduce nutrient runoff and sediment from entering our rivers and streams which will help protect our water quality.



PREVENTING SOIL EROSION

- Tree belts and hedges act as a natural barrier, reducing both wind and water erosion.

Did you know?

- Trees and hedgerows are important for farmers and wildlife. They provide protection and shelter for livestock and crops. Birds also nest in hedgerows during the breeding season and use them as protection from predators.
- As trees grow they absorb and store carbon dioxide, they keep converting carbon dioxide in order to grow tall and strong and in return they release pure oxygen back into the atmosphere.
- Annual removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere by Ireland's forests exceeds 6 million tonnes per annum.¹ On average, 4.3 tonnes approx. of CO₂/ha/year is sequestered by Irish Forests.²
- According to the EPA, hedgerows and non-forest woodland could potentially sequester between 0.66 and 3.3tn of CO₂/ha/year.³
- Approximately half of the 110 bird species recorded by Birdwatch Ireland use hedgerows for nesting during the breeding season as well as for roosting and protection from predators.⁴
- Over 1500 insects can be recorded at times both living and feeding in hedgerows.⁵
- The common hawthorn can support 300 different insect species alone.⁶
- In 2021, this initiative from Tirlán, reached its original 100,000 tree and hedgerow target twelve months ahead of schedule.

1. Tree Council Of Ireland <https://www.treecouncil.ie/eannanilamhnacarbonfootprint>
 2. Teagasc, GHG Emissions: Positive Role Of Forestry <https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2020/GHG-Emissions---Positive-Role-of-Forestry.pdf>
 3. EPA, Climate Change Research Programme. <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/ccrp-32-for-webFINAL.pdf>
 4. Irish Examiner, Hedgerows vital for wildlife. <https://www.google.ie/amp/s/www.irishexaminer.com/property/homeandoutdoors/arid-30961526.html%3ftype=amp>
 5. Threats to our hedgerows. <https://ptes.org/hedgerow/threats-to-hedgerows/>
 6. Woodland Trust. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees-a-z-of-british-trees/hawthorn/>

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

'We believe when it comes to enhancing our environment, small steps can really make a difference. Working together through our Operation Biodiversity programme we can help enrich our landscape for generations to come.'

DRIVING BIODIVERSITY



At Tirlán, we believe that by working together we can really make a difference. Through Operation Biodiversity, we want to help protect nature and allow biodiversity to thrive, leaving our landscape in even better shape for the next generation.

Our location on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean means we have a moderate climate, with abundant rainfall that helps our trees and plants to flourish.

Our trees and hedgerows create natural ecosystems where our flora and fauna can exist in harmony. They mark the seasons of the year, recycle nutrients, deliver important nesting sites and create a buzzing bee and insect life.

OUR AMBITION



We are on a mission to deliver 450,000 trees and hedging plants but we won't stop there as we want to continue to work together to nurture our environment for years to come. We all have a role to play in protecting our natural ecosystems.

This is the year to plant a native Irish tree for the next generation or to select our mixed native hedging bundles as a long-term investment.

Every single tree or metre of hedgerow planted makes a difference.

AMBITION

Ambition - we are on a mission to work with our farming communities to deliver 450,000 trees & hedges plants by 2025.

WATCH THEM GROW



Planting trees and hedgerows will support the landscape that you live in, not just now but for generations to come.

Each and every plant will offer a home to many of our native fauna and each one of them in turn will support our diverse countryside.

Just think of how diverse our accents are here in Ireland and how mundane it would be if we were all the same.

It is much the same for our countryside, so by you playing your part and planting even just a small grove of trees or section of hedge, it will help us to diversify our countryside.

Many people take great enjoyment out of watching bumble bees and other pollinators at work in our crops and gardens. Without a home these creatures cannot exist, so we all need to help by creating a little space for them to thrive.



"Our team of ASSAP advisors are working closely with our farm family suppliers to identify the critical source areas in the landscape to recommend the right tree in the right place in line with Operation Biodiversity. Effective placement of trees, hedgerows and riparian margins is important for breaking the pathway of overland flow nutrients to our watercourses while providing co-benefits in terms of biodiversity and carbon sequestration."

Michael Hassett, Tirlán ASSAP Sustainability Advisor

Tirlán supports the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) which acts as a more collaborative approach to achieving positive water quality outcomes for Irish agriculture.

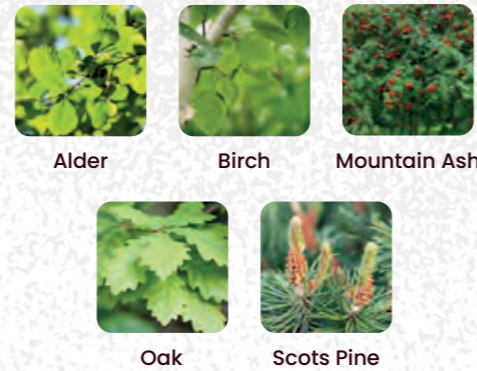
NATIVE TREES TO BOOST BIODIVERSITY



Specially selected packages created by our horticulturists to create a Biodiverse land that our farm families can be proud of.

Trees and plants play a vital role in boosting biodiversity and sustaining a clean environment.

Tirlán have a range of trees available to suit all soil types. Talk to a member of our team in store or check out our social media channels for advice on selecting the right trees for you.



Tirlán FarmLife and Tirlán CountryLife is supporting our farmers to enrich Biodiversity on their farm by delivering these exceptional plant packages.

Trees BARE ROOT Bundle

Plant Name	Number of Plants	R.R.P.
MOUNTAIN ASH TREES 60-80CM ACRES	5	€8.75
SCOTS PINE TREES 30-40CM ACRES	5	€6.75
BIRCH 60-80CM ACRES	5	€7.00
ALDER 60-80CM ACRES	5	€7.25
OAK TREES 60-80CM ACRES ACRES	5	€9.75
25 Plants per Bundle		€39.50

Bundle Offer
€33.00



Tree & Hedgerow planting counts as a Sustainability Action Payment action.

The bundles of trees and hedging plants purchased as part of Operation Biodiversity count as actions towards securing the valuable Sustainability Action Payment bonus for dairy suppliers, which is worth on average €3,000 a year.

ACRES

The bundles of trees and hedgerows listed qualify for the Department of Agriculture's Acres scheme, with availability dependent on provenance and offered while stocks last.

AVAILABLE IN-STORE



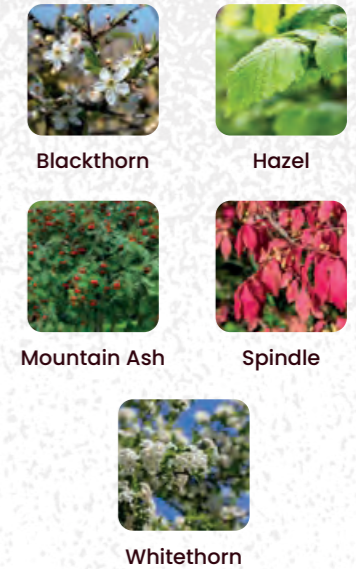
NATIVE HEDGEROWS TO BOOST BIODIVERSITY



Native Irish hedging plants are a home and shelter to hundreds of animals, the right hedgerows are hugely important for biodiversity!

Hedgerows are hugely beneficial to our countryside; they provide natural ecosystems where our flora and fauna can thrive in harmony.

Working with our expert horticulturists we've developed a mixture of native Irish Hedgerow plants. Each bundle has been carefully selected for the Irish soil and biodiversity.



Hedging BARE ROOT Bundle

Product Name	Number of Plants	R.R.P.
BLACKTHORN 60-80CM ACRES	12	€13.20
WHITETHORN HEDGING 60-80CM ACRES	30	€27.00
MOUNTAIN ASH TREES 60-80CM ACRES	4	€7.00
EUONYMUS EUROPEAS 40-60CM ACRES	8	€11.20
HAZEL 40-60CM	4	€4.60
58 Plants per Bundle		€63.00

Bundle Offer
€48.00

Additional Bundles

Product	50 Bundle	Bundle Offer	100 Bundle	Bundle Offer
WHITETHORN HEDGING 40-60CM	€37.50	€32.00	€75.00	€62.00
WHITETHORN HEDGING 60-80CM	€45.00	€38.00	€90.00	€72.00

For more information scan the QR code



AVAILABLE IN-STORE



TALK TO OUR EXPERT HORTICULTURISTS



Horticulturist with Tirlán CountryLife
Malachy Doherty

MALACHY'S TOP 10 TIPS WHEN PLANTING HEDGES OR TREES

1. Choose the correct plant for the site – one suited to the aspect, the soil type and pH.
2. Prepare the soil. If it's briary or waste ground, weed control is important. Strim the area to the clay if possible and rotavate.
3. If your soil is acidic, whitethorn, blackthorn, alder, oak, Scots pine, mountain ash are good choices.
4. Similarly, in limey soil, a mix of whitethorn, spindle, hazel, oak and mountain ash works well.
5. If planting hedges and trees, put the hedging plants to the front, trees to the back. This allows hedgerows to be trimmed down the line, without damaging the trees.
6. To protect newly-planted hedges, drive a post every 10m at either side and run bailing twine along the line. This will support the hedging and help prevent wind rock.
7. Similarly, in exposed areas, drive a stake to support taller trees. But remove after two years to allow the tree to flourish.
8. We recommend you plant bare root hedging within 10 days of purchase. If the weather isn't suitable, put the bagged hedging in soil. This will give you a window of up to a month to find a suitable day to plant.
9. Don't plant on a very rainy day. The ground will just be too wet.
10. The ideal time to plant hedging and trees is in cold weather – but no later than the end of February.

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY CALL INTO YOUR NEAREST TIRLÁN FARMLIFE OR TIRLÁN COUNTRYLIFE STORE.
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [TIRLANFARMLIFE.COM](https://www.tirlanfarmlife.com)

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