Rhododendron Control – Foliar Spray / Treatment

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For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page .

Aim

The aim of this item is to benefit a variety of habitats where rhododendron is invading a sensitive site.

Rhododendrons thrive in damp acidic soils, and quickly grow to form a dense shading canopy at the expense of other native plants.

Foliar spraying involves direct treatment of small bushes of less than 1.3 metres in height.

Eligibility

Any land where rhododendron is invading a sensitive habitat, and bushes are less than 1.3 metres in height is eligible.

Spatial targeting

Map of target area – Rhododendron Control – Foliar Spray / Treatment (PDF, Size: 648.6 kB) doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/39_Rhododendron_Control.pdf This option is available within the target area shown on this map.

It may be possible to apply for this option outside this area where there is strong justification and you have an endorsement from NatureScot submitted alongside your application.

You can check if this item is available on your holding using the search targeting tool which can be found on any of the following AECS guidance pages:

AECS Home

Eligibility

How to Apply

Management Options and Capital Items

Capital Items

Application requirements

You must prepare a Rhododendron Control Plan, following Scottish Forestry's technical guidance.

The plan must include a 1:10,000 map showing the extent of the rhododendrons, their density (light, medium or difficult), the areas to be treated and the type of treatment you propose (chemical, mechanical or manual) and the timing of treatment. The plan must also detail any proposed follow-up control.

Requirements

- you must treat the area as detailed in your rhododendron control plan by chemical spraying
- you must treat any regrowth within the area detailed in your rhododendron control plan by chemical spraying
- you must maintain a diary
- you must keep photographic evidence of the site before and after treatment as part of your claim

Payment

You can claim £200 per hectare of infested land.

You may apply for payment on an actual cost basis for this item if the work you are proposing to carry out will benefit the notified features of a designated site, and where there are exceptional circumstances. This can include works which offer a dual benefit to both the environment and the long term management of a Scheduled Monument located within the designated site (Sites of Special Scientific Interest and European sites)

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the work
- you have treated the area as detailed in your rhododendron control plan to ensure there is no regrowth
- you have maintained a diary which includes the dates treatment was undertaken
- when using herbicide near water, you must use a glyphosate-based chemical that is approved for use and you, or your spray operator, must have Scottish Environment Protection Agency authorisation
- you have kept photographic evidence of the site before and after treatment as part of your claim

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