

Rhododendron Eradication – Foliar Spray Treatment

This is an old version of the page

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For recent changes to this guidance, please see the [bottom of the page](#).

This is for the direct treatment of small bushes of less than 1.3 metres in height only.

For the [Woodland Improvement Grant – Habitats and Species option](#), this capital item will be targeted at those priority areas identified as red and orange in the 'Rhododendron Control Target Areas' as shown in the 'FGS (2014-20) Target Areas' folder on the [Forestry Commission Scotland Map Viewer](#).

Applications for areas outwith the red and orange squares will need to make the case for being funded (e.g. by including a letter of support from Forestry Commission Scotland or Scottish Natural Heritage).

Please refer to the [Prioritising control of rhododendron guidance](#).

These exceptional cases would include any designated site that is in unfavourable condition because of rhododendron, or which needs rhododendron control to maintain it in favourable condition.

The latter could include small areas of rhododendron on a site, which are not in themselves sufficient to make it unfavourable – five per cent cover is required for unfavourable – but since it spreads, any small amounts should be controlled as soon as possible to prevent future problems.

We might also consider there to be an exceptional case if there was rhododendron on adjacent land, which hadn't spread onto a designated site yet.

Support for rhododendron control will be dependent on the applicant producing a Rhododendron Control Plan for the property (and ideally collaborating with adjacent neighbours) which will demonstrate a long-term strategy to eradicate and control invasive rhododendron.

The plan should draw on the current advice and guidance given on the Forestry Commission Scotland website, and should reflect the structured and co-ordinated approach promoted in the new national rhododendron control strategy.

The plan must also, wherever needed, commit the applicant to working collaboratively with adjacent neighbours (Forestry Commission Scotland woodland officers may need to verify if collaborative work is required).

This plan must be attached to your application.

The plan must include:

- a map that details the extent and percentage cover of the rhododendron (to evidence the net area of hectares you will be claiming grant on), and categorises the rhododendron by grant type (for example: foliar spray)
- details on the control method and follow-up for five years, justifying why this method is preferable to stem injection (which otherwise is our preferred method)

For the [Tree Health](#) option this capital item is only available within Statutory Plant Health Notice areas and as dictated by the terms of the Statutory Plant Health Notice – therefore a Rhododendron Control Plan is not required.

This operation is for chemical foliar spraying. This item cannot be used on areas that are being managed under any of the other eradication of rhododendron options. If a further follow-up is required this can be applied for separately.

Claims can be made after the initial clearance has been carried out, but applicants must make sure that at year five there must be no rhododendron present on site.

The site must be surveyed at year four to make sure that eradication has been achieved.

Please provide the survey results and photographic evidence to your woodland officer. The site may be inspected by Forestry Commission Scotland at this time.

You must follow the [Code of Practice for herbicide spraying](#) and guidance in the Health and Safety Executive [application of pesticides by handheld equipment](#) document.

[Further information](#)

Guidance on what constitutes best practice rhododendron control can be found in the Forestry Commission Practice Guide '[Managing and controlling invasive rhododendron](#)' published on the Forest Research website.

[SEPA exempt activities](#)

[SEPA online notification](#)

There is also information to assist you on the Forestry Commission website on [reducing pesticide use in forestry](#).

Please make sure you abide by conditions set out in the Forestry Grant Scheme claim form and guidance.

[Recent changes](#)

Section	Change
Main section	We've replaced the spatial prioritisation map with the Forestry Commission Scotland Map Viewer.

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