Rhododendron Eradication – Mechanised – Medium

This is an old version of the page

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Medium specification: Bushes are greater than one metre in height and the slope of the ground is less than 33 per cent.

For the Woodland Improvement Grant – Habitats and Species option, this capital item will be targeted at those priority areas identified as red and orange squares in the spatial prioritisation map for rhododendron control.

Spatial prioritisation map for rhododendron control (PDF, Size: 1.2 MB)
doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/Spatial_Prioritisation_map_for_Rhododendron_Control_final_20141120.pdf

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).

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: mechanised – medium)
- 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 activity can be undertaken next to manual eradication of rhododendron. The same plant cannot be subject to mechanised or chemical control and then manual eradication or vice versa.

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This operation is for using the machinery for mechanised eradication and includes costs for assessment and one initial chemical follow-up control.

If a further follow-up is required this can be applied for separately. All rhododendron to be removed must be cut as low as possible to the ground to make sure that the minimum re-growth occurs.

Alternatively a machine can be used to uproot rhododendron. If a flail is to be used, then it is designed to cut and mulch the rhododendron.

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.

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.

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

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