

NPI Name: Rhododendron and laurel control - control by stem injection

NPI Code: ARI

NPI Payment: Year 1: Actual costs

NPI Aim(s): To decrease the area of invasive rhododendron and laurel on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity value.

Scheme Applicability: Wider – EFS(W) Higher – EFS(H) Group – EFS(G)

This NPI is: Permanent Rotational

NPI Description and Outcome: 'Rhododendron and laurel control - control by stem injection' is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of EFS(H) sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). This NPI will decrease the area of invasive rhododendron and laurel on priority habitats where mechanised or manual clearance is not appropriate and bushes are large enough to access a main stem.

Area Permitted: **Minimum** 0.0001 ha (1 m²) **Maximum** Not Applicable*

* DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

Pre-approval documentation:

You must apply for and receive written pre-approval for all capital items which are paid on an actual cost basis (see EFS Terms and Conditions).

Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type ¹		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
ARI1C	The claim form, invoices and receipts must be returned by the end of the Year 1.	✓		
ARI2C	The invoices and receipts must meet the required Specification.	✓		
ARI3C	The claimed 'Rhododendron and laurel control - control by stem injection' must be completed in the correct location in the field(s) where it has been approved.	✓		✓
ARI4C	The claimed 'Rhododendron and laurel control - control by stem injection' must be completed to the Specification as detailed below.	✓		✓
ARI5C	Field records must be kept detailing date(s) completed, location, approved chemical used and name of qualified person who completed the work.	✓		

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

Specification:

- the main stem must be drilled as vertically as possible below the last fork; and
- 'Rhododendron and laurel control - control by stem injection' must be completed as detailed in the ssRMP.

Further Advice:

When carrying out 'Rhododendron and laurel control - control by stem injection' drill the stem as close to the main root system as possible below the last fork using a hand brace drill or cordless drill and chisel bit (between 11 - 16 mm diameter and between 25 - 50 mm deep).

Where justified as part of the implementation of IPM, the herbicide should be applied to the hole immediately after drilling. Use the recommended dilution and application rate. Care must be taken not to allow the herbicide to overflow the hole. The use of herbicides/pesticides may only be applied in association with the completion of the capital item works if justified as part of the implementation of IPM, including for the control of noxious weeds or invasive species by spot spraying of an approved herbicide.

It is advisable to mark treated bushes.

Treated plants should be completely dead nine months after the chemical treatment.

For further information on the correct way to use pesticides, please refer to the attached link:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/code-practice-using-plant-protection-products>

All health and safety and application of pesticides codes of practice guidelines should be adhered to when 'Rhododendron and laurel control - control by stem injection' is being completed.

For further information on Health and Safety guidelines, please check the attached link to the Health and Safety Executive NI:

<http://www.hseni.gov.uk/guidance/industries/agriculture-3-column.htm>