

## Caitríona Cullen

### *Cullen Nurseries*



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Caitríona Cullen started her self-employment journey, while on a career break, in the middle of a pandemic, home schooling 3 young boys. Caitríona considered what work she could do at home without disturbing her children's routines too much.

As her husband Robert has a nursery that he runs for six months of the year, Caitríona realised she had the infrastructure in place to make Cullen Nurseries a full-time, year-round business that worked around family life. Fast forward to 2023 and Caitríona is now an award-winning businesswoman working full time as a director of the also, award winning Cullen Nurseries Ltd.

Cullen Nurseries grows and supplies native trees and hedging plants to a nationwide customer base of farmers, gardeners, homeowners and community groups across Ireland. Offering a Nationwide Delivery service, Caitríona and the team are serving their customers, from the hills and valleys to the islands and the peninsulas.

This rapid expansion of the business has been attributed to Cullen Nurseries' adaption to an online sales model, meaning Caitríona can reach & engage her clients no matter where they are located.

The skills, practices, confidence and self-belief learned and gained from participating in the ACORNS 6 and ACORNS Plus programme is one of the main driving forces behind the success of Cullen Nurseries. Learning to be accountable and focused has helped Caitríona achieve her goals, Cullen Nurseries now employs 7 people full time, with plans for further expansion into 2024.

*Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.*



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine