

Trees and Shrubs

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Native trees and shrubs are excellent for wildlife, providing nectar-rich flowers, buds, berries, fruits, seeds and nuts as food for insects, birds and mammals; as well as places to breed, shelter and hibernate. Trees can also act as windbreaks, screens, frame views, and provide privacy, security, shade and height. If chosen carefully, a tree can be accommodated in the smallest of areas.

They can be a great way for your business to leave a lasting legacy for the future.

This factsheet shows you how to plant trees and shrubs and provides suggestions for brightening up shady areas with colourful plants.



Mother Nature knows best

Native trees generally support many, often hundreds more species than exotic and ornamental varieties. So by choosing native trees and shrubs for your grounds you will be making a significant contribution to helping wildlife.

Trees and plants that grow in the wild locally are specially adapted to local conditions, and the seed they produce will be genetically unique to one area and locality.

Buying Trees

It is cheapest to buy bare rooted trees and plant between November and March. Trees are sold as whips or standards; whips are economical for mass planting and standards are good for specimen trees, although take longer to establish.

Going Native: Some trees for your grounds

Common oak	Sessile oak	Alder
Small leaved Lime	Aspen	Wild cherry
Downy birch	Yew	Bird Cherry
Crack willow	Scots pine	Crab apple
Ash	Silver birch	Rowan



Shrubs and Small Trees

Hawthorn	Hazel	Holly
Blackthorn	Dog rose	Gorse
Elderberry	Native privet	Goat willow
Guelder rose	Broom	Osier

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Tree Aftercare



- Water the tree well during the first year after planting.
- Weeding: Remove all vegetation growing around the base of the tree during the first 5 years.
- If you attached a tree tie, remember to loosen it each year to allow the tree to grow.
- Remove the stake and tree tie completely after 3 years.
- If necessary, protect saplings under 5 years old against rabbits and deer with tree guards. Remove the guards when the trees are 5 years old.

Planting Trees

- Plant trees between November and March during the tree's dormant period.
- When choosing a tree, think about its ultimate height, the shade it will cast and its proximity to buildings. (A useful rule of thumb is to plant the tree at least its mature height away from the nearest building.) Some species need different conditions such as damp, acidic or alkaline soils.
- Try to ensure that the roots are covered **at all times**. (The delicate root hairs dry out and die very quickly.)
- When you have chosen a spot for your tree, dig a hole twice the size of the root ball; try to keep the topsoil and the subsoil separate if you can.
- Add some well-rotted manure or peat – free compost into the bottom of the hole. Mix the spoil from the hole with compost or with the topsoil.
- If your tree is more than 2 metres tall, drive a metre long stake into the ground on the windward side. Short stakes enable the tree to move in the wind, stimulating stronger root growth than a tall stake.
- Remove the tree from its container and place it in the hole. If it is a bare rooted tree, ensure the roots hang down straight.
- Backfill the hole with the soil. For bare rooted trees, give the tree an occasional light shake (this gets the soil particles down amongst the roots.)
- When the hole is filled up, firm the soil around the trunk with your heels and water well.
- A mulch can be added around the base of the tree. If you used a stake, secure the tree to this with a tree tie; make sure the tie is not too tight or it will damage the tree.



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How to plant a wildlife-rich shady corner.

Plant bold groups of shade tolerant plants amongst the trees and shrubs, or semi-shade loving wildflowers along hedgerows and woodland edges.

Choose native plants from the following list:



Plants for Shade and Partial Shade

Monkshood	Ground ivy	Bugle	Dame's violet
Wood anemone	Lords and ladies	Woodruff	Great wood-rush
Foxglove	Wood vetch	Dog violet	Primrose
Red campion	Ivy	Male fern	Lesser celandine
British Bluebell	Wood forget-me-not	Solomon's seal	Wood spurge
Wood avens	Ramsons	Wood sorrel	Herb Robert



Logpiles

A logpile is an excellent feature to include in a shady corner. So ensuring a wooded area is not 'tidied' and branches, twigs and any logs from routine maintenance are retained provides a great habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

Use different sizes and species of wood and leave the bark on if possible.

