

### **Small trees up to 8m/30'; ornamental species**

- PURPLE NORWAY MAPLE VARIETY (*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson Sentry'); a columnar tree with reddy purple leaves.
- CUT LEAVED ALDER (*Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis'); deeply cut leaves cast light shade. Plant container grown
- HIMALAYAN BIRCH (*Betula utilis* 'Silver Shadow'); compact tree with white bark and large drooping green leaves. Plant container grown.
- PILLAR APPLE (*Malus tschonoskii*); compact with good spring and autumn colours, tolerates heavier soils.
- SARGENT'S CHERRY (*Prunus sargentii* 'Rancho'); a compact form with good spring and autumn colours.
- CHANTICLEER PEAR (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'); pyramidal shape with good spring and autumn colours. Tolerates dry sites, plant container grown.
- GOLDEN ROBINIA (*Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia'); a tree with pinnate golden leaves that cast light shade, prefers a well drained soil.
- FERN LEAVED ROWAN (*Sorbus aucuparia* 'Asplenifolia'); has more deeply serrated leaflets than the type that cast light shade, good autumn colours.
- JAPANESE ROWAN (*Sorbus commixta*); a compact tree with attractive winter buds and good spring and autumn colours. *Sorbus* 'Embley' is very similar.

### **Medium trees 8-18m/30-60'; native species**

- FIELD MAPLE (*Acer campestre*); a small leaved tree of character with good autumn colours. The cultivars 'Elsrijk' and 'Streetwise' have a more compact conical habit.
- ALDER (*Alnus glutinosa*); Thrives on damp sites, good winter colours with twigs and catkins.
- HORNBEAM (*Carpinus betulus*); Good bark effects and yellow autumn colours. The cultivar 'Frans Fontaine' is an upright form that retains its habit into maturity. Plant container grown.
- SCOTS PINE (*Pinus sylvestris*); has attractive orangey bark and blue/green needles. Prefers acid soils. Plant container grown.
- WILD CHERRY (*Prunus avium*); also known as gean or mazzard, it has good spring and autumn colours. It does have a large spreading root system so requires plenty of room.

### **Medium trees 8-18m/30-60'; ornamental species**

- LOBEL'S MAPLE (*Acer lobelia*); a compact tree with bright green leaves and yellow autumn colour. The young bark is striped.
- SWEET BUCKEYE (*Aesculus flava*); a member of the horse chestnut family with yellow flowers and good autumn colours.
- ITALIAN ALDER (*Alnus cordata*); has a pyramidal crown with pear like leaves and tolerates wet, dry and chalk soils. Plant container grown.
- WHITE HIMALAYAN BIRCH (*Betula utilis* var *jacquemontii*); has a beautiful white bark and thrives in most soils. Plant container grown.
- TURKISH HAZEL (*Corylus colourna*); a distinctive tree with large green leaves and yellow catkins in early spring. Compact when young.
- COMMON WALNUT (*Juglans regia*); rough barked with scented pinnate leaves and edible fruit. Plant container grown.
- LIME CULTIVAR (*Tilia* 'Harold Hillier'); a handsome, vigorous and narrowly conical tree with good autumn colours. Does not suffer from honey-dew problems.



*Basingstoke  
and Deane*

## **Guide to choosing and buying the right tree**

Trees are often taken for granted but they do provide many benefits. It is important to plant trees now for the benefit of future generations, either as new trees or as replacements for trees that have been removed. This leaflet gives advice on choosing the right tree for your situation.

Please also see Leaflet 6 that gives further advice on planting and aftercare.



## Choosing a tree

Choosing what tree to plant can be difficult with the number of different species, cultivars and varieties that are currently available. There are a number of useful books and websites, but if you are still unsure it may be useful to visit a garden or arboretum. If you have removed a protected tree (that is one subject to a Tree Preservation Order or one growing in a conservation area) there may be a duty or a condition requiring the planting of a replacement tree. In this case you may be required to agree the species of the replacement tree with the council before planting.

There are some basic points that should be considered as follows: -

Soil – will the tree grow well in the soil in which it is to be planted? Acidity, drainage and the type of soil will all have a bearing. Some tree species are more specific than others as to their requirements.

Local distinctiveness – what species grow naturally in the area already? Native species are usually best for wildlife and 'fit in' with the landscape character and are normally preferable to ornamental species.

Available space – is the tree able to reach its full life expectancy without causing future conflict with buildings, shading, overhanging roads and footpaths etc.? It may not be sensible to replace a large forest type tree in a small domestic garden with another one unless you are prepared to remove it before it outgrows its situation.

Benefits – as well as having obvious ornamental attributes, trees provide shelter, reduce temperature extremes and produce oxygen.

## Buying a tree

You should always buy your tree from a reputable nursery or garden centre which should also be able to provide advice on selecting the right tree. You should bear the following points in mind when selecting your tree:

- Ensure that the tree has a single, straight undamaged leading shoot or a balanced and well developed branching head according to the species or cultivar.
- Ensure there are no damaged branches or areas of bark and the tree is free from obvious pests and diseases.
- Bare rooted trees should have a balanced and fibrous root system which has been and should be protected from drying out at all times.

## What size should I plant?

Trees come in a range of sizes from one year old plants to semi-mature specimens 5m or more in height. The smaller sizes retain more of their root system when moved as bare rooted plants which means that their survival rates are potentially higher. The following are some of the common sizes that you may be asked to plant if you are discharging a duty or condition to plant a replacement tree:

Light standard	2.5 - 3.0m tall	6 - 8 cm girth (1m from ground)
Standard	2.5 - 3.0m tall	8 - 10cm girth (1m from ground)
Selected standard	3.0 - 3.5m tall	10 -12cm girth (1m from ground)
Heavy Standard	3.3 - 4.24m tall	12 -14cm girth (1m from ground)

## Some suggestions

Below is a small sample of the range of trees that are currently available. New cultivars are being developed all the time, some of which have a compact form and offer opportunities to use a larger growing species in a more restricted space. The sizes are given as a guide only as conditions will vary for each site. Some trees do not transplant well at the larger sizes and should ideally be planted as container grown trees. The Latin names are given in the brackets.

### Small trees up to 8m/30'; native species

- SILVER BIRCH (*Betula pendula*); attractive bark and autumn colours. The cultivar 'Darlecarlica', also known as the Swedish birch is a graceful tree with finely cut leaves. Plant container grown.
- HAWTHORN (*Crataegus monogyna*); thorny but with good spring and autumn colours. The cultivar 'Stricta' has a more upright form.
- HOLLY (*Ilex aquifolium*); evergreen tree, females have good fruit effects. 'Green Pillar' and 'Pyramidalis' are two of the more compact female cultivars. Plant container grown. Slow growing.
- ROWAN (*Sorbus aucuparia*); good spring and autumn colours. It used to be planted to ward off evil spirits.
- WHITEBEAM (*Sorbus aria*); leaves emerge a creamy white in spring. Prefers chalk soils.
- WILD SERVICE TREE (*Sorbus torminalis*); white flowers in spring, red autumn colours.