

# Choose your tree



(Photo: J Jennings/WTML)

Choosing the right tree for you is easy when you know what to look for.

## Soil type

Before you start, take a look around your neighbourhood and work out which species are thriving – this will give you an idea of what might do well in your soil. Most trees can grow in a range of conditions but some have a preference for sandy, clay, wet or chalky soils. It's worth working out what soil type you have in your planting area and then choosing your trees accordingly. Your soil could be chalky, clay, loamy, peaty, sandy and silty. To work out what kind it is, look at it closely, pick it up and roll it between your hands.

## What do you want from the trees?

- Wildlife - Choose native species. A single mature oak can support more than 500 species. Trees with nuts and berries such as rowan, hazel and beech provide food source for birds and mammals throughout the year
- Firewood - Cherry, hornbeam, birch and rowan plus fruit trees will all burn well
- Autumn colour - Spindle, dogwood, guelder rose and field maple will provide a riot of colour for you to enjoy
- Game cover - Pheasants need shrubby species such as hawthorn, hazel, elder, bramble and wild rose - some of which will need to be managed by coppicing to keep them short and dense
- Timber - The best native timber species include oak (an excellent construction material), beech and walnut. Non-native species such as Sitka spruce are common in commercial plantations

## Tree packs

We have split our tree packs into types to help you choose what's best for you. From trees that give you year-round colour to those that you can grow for fuel, there's a pack in our range to suit everyone.

## Resilience

If you're planning a wood, think carefully about using a good mix of native broadleaf species. Woods and forests in the UK are under pressure from pollution, climate change and tree pests and diseases. By planting a broad range of native tree species you'll be creating woodland that is more resilient to these pressures.

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