

Wildlife Gardening: Trees and shrubs

Trees, shrubs and hedges provide nesting places and materials, food sources and cover for a great variety of creatures as well as creating a functional border. With almost half of Britain's ancient woodland being destroyed in the last 50 years, the need for these habitats is greater than ever, and you can help by planting a hedge, tree, or shrubs in your garden.

Which trees & shrubs should I plant?

It is important to choose species suited to the conditions in your garden such as soil type, exposure, and space available. Try to gather as much information as possible about the conditions in your garden, and match the shrubs and trees accordingly.

Large trees

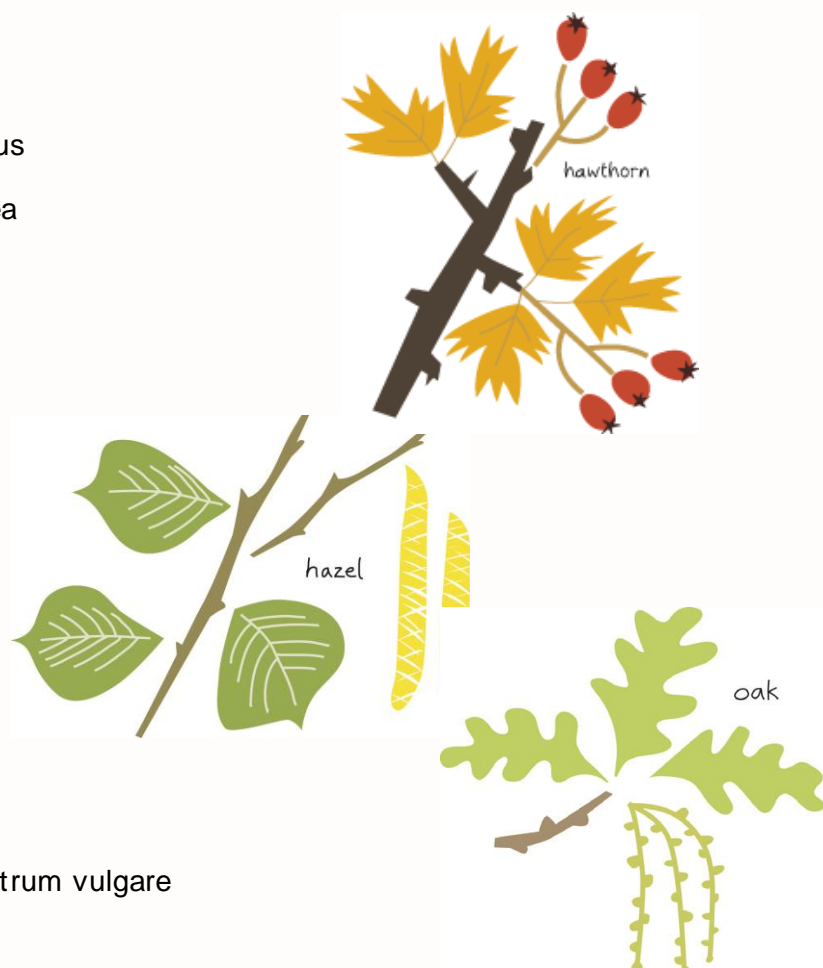
Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*
Beech *Fagus sylvatica*
Cherries *Prunus avium* and *P. padus*
Elm *Ulmus procera*
Oaks *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*
Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*
White willow *Salix alba*

Medium/small trees

Alder *Alnus glutinosa*
Apples *Malus* spp.
Field maple *Acer campestre*
Holly *Ilex aquifolium*
Pears *Pyrus* spp.
Silver birch *Betula pendula*

Shrubs suitable for hedges

Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*
Buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus*
Elder *Sambucus nigra*
Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*
Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
Hazel *Corylus avellana*
Privets, including wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*



Plant away from where services are situated e.g. gas pipes or electric cables. Avoid planting wide rooted trees such as willows or poplars close to buildings. Try to choose native trees and shrubs which grow locally.

Do not plant trees and shrubs in an area that is already good for wildlife as it may destroy it.

When do I plant trees & shrubs?

The best time to plant your tree or shrub is between November and March as this is the time when plants are dormant, and falls between leaf fall and bud burst. Do not plant in frozen or waterlogged soil, and avoid the summer months when trees are likely to dry out.

How do I plant trees & shrubs?

Once you have chosen your trees or shrubs, and where they will be planted, follow the planting steps below. Always ensure that the roots of your trees or shrubs do not dry out. Keep them in a moist plastic bag until you are ready to put them in the ground.

1. Dig a hole that is at least 3 times the diameter of the roots of the plant, and deep enough for the plant to fit in and be covered with soil.
2. Place the plant in the hole and spread out the roots.
3. Replace the soil in the hole, gently shaking the tree to ensure that the soil is in contact with the roots and to remove any air pockets.
4. Firm the soil around the tree with your heel and gently pull the plant to ensure it is secure.
5. Water well.

Aftercare

Success will often depend on the amount of effort you put into the care of your trees and shrubs in the two years after planting. Water weekly during the growing season, and check that the soil around the tree is firm. Pruning and removing dead branches and weak shoots from the stem will also promote growth.

If you would like to **find out more** about how to encourage wildlife into your garden, please see the Wildlife Gardening pages of our website at <http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-gardening>.

If you have a question about wildlife you may find in your garden please contact **WildLine**, the Trust's free **wildlife information service** on 01489 774406 or Email: wildline@hiwwt.org.uk

