



DECEMBER 2022

**Our pledge is to work toward a green future  
for our children & for the future of our planet.**

On the 12th of December 2022, as part of the [1 Million Trees for Norfolk initiative](#), and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Greening Wymondham will present every Year 6 pupil in three primary schools with a tree. The children will receive a bare root tree whip, suitable for planting in a small garden, for raising in a pot in a courtyard, or for planting in a public area to be sourced with Greening Wymondham's or their school's, aid. The trees were purchased from the Norfolk County Council who are running the scheme. It has been chosen with biodiversity, nature connectivity, clean air and small gardens in mind.

Greening Wymondham hope that the children will plant their tree whip immediately when they get home(!) giving it a chance to live and thrive in your garden. Otherwise heel it in to be planted finally later; planting and heeling in instructions are below. The children could write a secret message with their name on it, saying this is their tree planted with hope for your green future on this day in 2022, and plant it with their tree. Once planted, add the tree online to the Queen's Green Canopy Map. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

Trees are essential for the health of our environment. When established, trees hold carbon, and when they are older, the substantial amounts of carbon they hold are essential in our bid to reduce carbon emissions. Furthermore, trees provide valuable habitat for birds and many species of invertebrates. When leaves shed in the winter, they decompose, adding food to the soil and providing shelter for wildlife. Leaves make a great mulch for your garden when gathered and combined with manure. Trees take up water whereas pavements, roads and deforested land can and do cause run-offs and flooding. Trees signal to other trees, and share nutrients with each other too (can you believe it?) through the soil. More trees will keep our planet cooler, and are absolutely vital for our future.

By the way, trees can be cut into hedge trees if you are worried about them growing too big. Hedges, and hedgehogs too, matter. And just so you know, if a larger established tree and house seem to live in harmony with each other despite close proximity, it is better not to disturb that relationship.

We pledge these trees for your green future and for ours, with love and hope.

**Greening Wymondham**  
**IMAGINE A GREEN FUTURE**

- Choose a site away from your house, overhead power lines. There is no research to support the idea that tree roots might harm underground services such as water pipes, but it is probably a good idea to avoid them.
- Soak your tree roots in water for 30 minutes before planting.
- Water your tree during dry weather for the first 3 years until your tree is established. Do however, avoid your tree getting water logged!
- If you have rabbits, hares or deer in the area, consider using a tree guard.

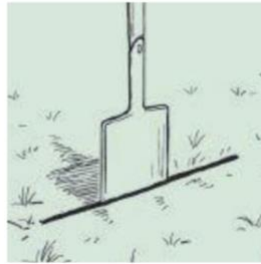
The planting guides are from [treecouncil.org.uk](http://treecouncil.org.uk) Tree Care Campaign.

### Planting your tree or hedge

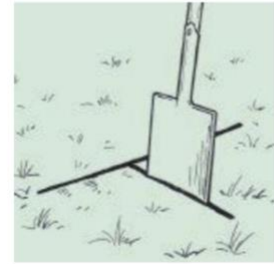
There are a variety of ways to plant trees and hedging.

#### Notch planting

Notch planting (also known as slit planting) using a garden spade is the quickest method for planting small trees. You should avoid this method if the soil is wet or if you're planting a larger or more expensive tree.



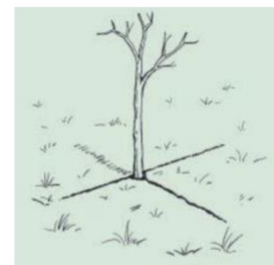
1. Clear a bare patch of soil about half a metre in diameter by scraping off any vegetation and the top inch or so of soil with your spade.



2. Use the spade to cut through the turf into the soil. Go as deep as the roots of the tree you're planting.



3. Push the spade backwards and forwards in the slot to create a hole big enough for the roots.

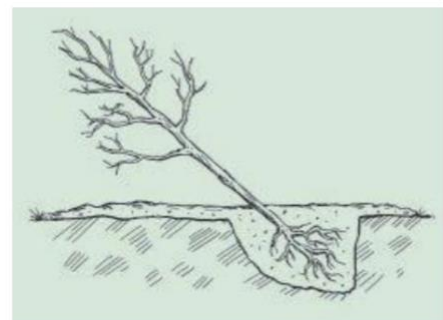


4. Hold the tree in place and firm the soil around the tree's stem with your heel. Make sure the roots are covered, that there are no air pockets and that the root collar is visible and level with the soil's surface.

### Heeling in

This is the best way of storing bare root trees if you're not able to plant them straight away.

1. Dig a trench in good, fresh, moist soil that won't dry out or become waterlogged. Alternatively, you could use a large pot.
2. Dig the trench with a sloping back, as pictured, deep enough for the tree roots to be completely covered.
3. If you have multiple trees in bundles, separate them out and space them along the trench. This is important to prevent the roots from drying out and, if you are planting an evergreen species, to stop the plants from heating up.
4. Put the trees in the trench with their roots completely covered but their tops out.
5. Cover the roots with soil up to the root collar and firm the soil lightly but treading it down to remove any big air pockets.



### Hawthorn: *Crataegus monogyna*

Mature trees can reach a height of 15m and are characterised by their dense, thorny habit, though they can grow as a small tree with a single stem. The bark is brown-grey, knotted and fissured, and twigs are slender and brown and covered in thorns.

Common hawthorn timber is a creamy-brown colour, finely grained and very hard. It can be used in turnery and engraving and to make veneers and cabinets, as well as boxes, tool handles and boat parts. It also makes good firewood and charcoal, and has a reputation for burning at high temperatures.

The young leaves, flower buds and young flowers are all edible. They can be added to green salads and grated root salads. The developing flower buds are particularly good. The haws can be eaten raw but may cause mild stomach upset. They are most commonly used to make jellies, wines and ketchups.

### **Dogwood: *Cornus sanguinea***

The origin of the name comes from the smooth, straight twigs which were used to make butchers 'skewers'. Skewers used to be called 'dags' or 'dogs', so the name means 'skewer wood'.

Dogwood is a small broadleaf shrub, typically found growing along woodland edges and in hedgerows of southern England. Mature trees can grow to 10m. The bark is grey and smooth with shallow ridges which develop with age, and its twigs are smooth, straight and slim. Leaf buds are black and look like bristles, forming on short stalks.

Identified in winter by: newer twigs which are bright red.

Value to wildlife: The leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of some moths, including the case-bearer moth, while the flowers are visited by insects and the berries are eaten by many mammals and birds.

Did you know?

In the sun the twigs are coloured crimson, but lime green in the shade. The wood of the dogwood tree is one of the hardest and it is said that it was chosen to make the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified.

### **Hazel: *Corylus avellana***

Catkins resembling lambs tails, and late-summer nut....Hazel is one of the most useful trees for its bendy stems and as a conservation saviour. And its nuts are loved by people, squirrels and hazel dormice.

Hazel is often coppiced, but when left to grow, trees can reach a height of 12m and live for up to 80 years (if coppiced, hazel can live for several hundred years). It has a smooth, grey-brown, bark, which peels with age, and bendy, hairy stems. Leaf buds are oval, blunt and hairy.

Today, hazel coppice has become an important management strategy in the conservation of woodland habitats for wildlife. The resulting timber is used in lots of ways and is becoming increasingly popular as pea sticks and bean poles used by gardeners.

Hazel was grown in the UK for large-scale nut production until the early 1900s. Cultivated varieties (known as cob nuts) are still grown in Kent, but most of our hazelnuts are now imported.

### **Guelder Rose: *Viburnum opulus***

Guelder rose is grown as an ornamental plant in the UK due to its pretty flowerheads and bright juicy berries. There are many cultivars of it in garden centres. Its berries can be mildly toxic if eaten raw but they can be cooked into jelly or jam.

It is thought that the bark of the guelder rose is effective in relieving muscle cramps when used in a tincture.

The Guelder rose is one of the national symbols of Ukraine and is mentioned in many folk songs and featured in art and embroidery.

### **Crab apple: *Malus sylvestris***

One of the ancestors of the cultivated apple (of which there are more than 6,000 varieties), it can live to up to 100 years. Mature trees grow to around 10m in height. They have an irregular, rounded shape and a wide, spreading canopy. With greyish brown, flecked bark, trees can become quite gnarled and twisted, especially when exposed, and the twigs often develop spines. This 'crabbed' appearance may have influenced its common name, 'crab apple'. The crab apple is one of the few host trees to the parasitic mistletoe, *Viscum album*, and trees are often covered in lichens. Look out for: its 'crabbed' or spiny appearance because of gnarled and twisted twigs.

A symbol of fertility and a forager's delight. Crab apple trees are associated with love and marriage and its small, hard fruits make an exquisite, jewel-coloured jelly.

### **Rowan: *Sorbus aucuparia***

Rowan was once widely planted by houses as a protection against witches. The colour red was considered to be the best colour for fighting evil, and so the rowan's bright red berries have been associated with magic and witches. In Ireland, it was planted near houses to protect them against spirits, and in Wales rowan trees were planted in churchyards. Cutting down a rowan was considered taboo in Scotland. The wood was used for stirring milk to prevent the milk curdling, and as a pocket charm against rheumatism. It was also used to make divining rods.

Aside from its mythic value, the Rowan has great value for wildlife.

The leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of a number of moths, including the larger Welsh wave and autumn green carpet. Caterpillars of the apple fruit moth feed on the berries. Flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects, while the berries are a rich source of autumn food for birds, especially the [blackbird](#), [mistle thrush](#), [redstart](#), [redwing](#), [song thrush](#), [fieldfare](#) and waxwing

### **Whitebeam: *Sorbus aria***

Whitebeam is a deciduous broadleaf tree that is compact and domed. Mature trees can grow to a height of 15m. The bark and twigs are smooth and grey and the shoots are brick red in sunlight but greyish-green in shade. Look out for the oval, serrated-edged leaves that are softly hairy underneath and dark green and shiny on top. In winter the young twigs start hairy and become smooth later. Only the edges of the buds are hairy.

The flowers are pollinated by insects and the berries are favoured by birds. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of a number of moths, including *Parornix scoticella*, *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* and *Phyllonorycter sorbi*.

Whitebeam timber is fine-grained, hard and white. Traditional uses included wood turning and fine joinery, including chairs, beams, cogs and wheels in machinery.