

We're interested in the reasons you have taken part in our Free Tree Scheme – please get in touch and tell us why trees matter to you:

rosliston@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Your new trees are two years old and approximately 30-50cm high (please note – Juniper are 10-20cm high) Treat them gently, as rough handling or being dropped can shock the roots, and it will take the trees longer to get established.

When you get your trees home, store them somewhere cool, outside. Do not let the roots dry out, so keep them covered. They should be planted within a couple of weeks of receiving them. If you need to store them for longer then give them a temporary home in a pot and remember to transplant them during the dormant season (Dec to March).

If you have a small garden or patio you can put each in a large pot permanently. The size of the pot will determine how big the tree gets, as once the roots have filled the pot the tree will stop growing. If you put your pot over soil, the roots will grow down through holes at the bottom of the pot into the ground so do be careful!

General planting advice:

- If planting directly into the ground, check distance from your own and your neighbour's property
- Make sure your hole is big enough for all the roots to fit in comfortably
- Once planted, press the soil down firmly around the stem, making sure the roots are fully covered but that all of the stem is above the soil level
- If the soil is dry, water the tree when you have planted it.

For the first couple of years:

- Weed carefully around the base of the tree
- Water the tree during long spells of warm dry weather

Safe Planting distances (or put the tree in a large pot!)

Remember your neighbour's property too, when you plant!

Safe planting distances depend on the depth of your foundations and the type of soil. Shallow foundations eg for conservatories and clay soil require the greatest minimum planting distance, making sure the tree is as far from a building as it will eventually grow in height.

If your foundations are deeper than 1m, or if you intend to prune the tree to restrict its height, you can plant closer to buildings than the recommended minimum distances.

Recommended minimum planting distance from buildings:

Hazel: 5-7 metres

Rowan: 7-10 metres

Scottish Elm: at least 10m (*hedgerow or large tub best: see note re Dutch Elm Disease overleaf*)

Wild Pear: 5-7 metres

OR as close as you want if you plant them in a large pot on a paved area!

Source for information and images: Cheviot Trees, Woodgrow Horticulture Limited, the Woodland Trust and other advisory websites

We'd love to know how you get on with your trees!

Please send us your photos via Instagram [@environmentaleducationproject](https://www.instagram.com/environmentaleducationproject) or send them via Facebook: Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre

Information about this year's trees:

HAZEL *Corylus avellana*



A small, fast growing, native, deciduous tree, that will grow to around 6 metres tall. It has edible nuts in autumn and bright yellow lambs tail catkins in February which provide essential early pollen for bees. A hazel tree can be coppiced to produce straight stakes for hedge laying, runner bean poles etc, but also makes a lovely small tree if left to grow.

ROWAN *Sorbus aucuparia*



A fast growing deciduous tree that will grow to around 15-20metres.

It will make a fine feature in your garden, with white flowers in spring and fruits which are bright red and are carried on large, dense bunches in late summer and autumn. The blossom, spring and autumn leaves and the lovely clusters of red berries make the tree a year-round feature

Birds love to eat the berries.

They are not edible raw to humans although you can use them to make rowan jelly which goes well with meat dishes.

SCOTTISH ELM *Ulmus Glabra*



The elm is a beautiful native tree with distinctive, rough, non-symmetrical leaves. If left unchecked it can grow to 30metres but this is unlikely, as if you leave it unpruned it is likely only to live 15 or so years before it succumbs to Dutch Elm Disease. However, it responds well to being kept at hedge height and is less likely to die back if kept as a hedging tree or constrained by a large pot. Despite the ongoing issue of Dutch Elm Disease we have chosen elm this year as it supports many native invertebrates like the Comma and the White-Letter Hairstreak butterflies and was once more common in South Derbyshire. We do still have some mature elm and many elm hedges and we want to add more elms into the landscape this year.

Elm has small red flowers in spring and flat green seeds in the late summer.

The trees have a tendency to put up new growth from the roots, called 'suckering'. So you will need to monitor this and cut back if needed. Alternatively, you can dig up your suckers when they are around knee height and grow them into new trees.

WILD PEAR *Pyrus communis*



The wild, or European, Pear is a species of pear native to Europe. It was probably introduced to Europe from W. Asia by the Greeks and may have reached Britain with the Romans. It is sometimes called Common Pear. It can grow to up to 20metres but is easy to prune to a smaller height for your garden.

It has lots of small white flowers, which grow in clusters. The pears ripen in November. The fruit is small and usually quite hard. It is edible, raw or cooked and is also used to make the drink 'perry'.

It is attractive from spring to autumn with the blossom, fruits and finally gold autumn leaf colours. Like crab apple, it can be used as root stock for dessert pear and apple species. You can graft a twig or bud onto the wild pear and, in time, if the graft takes, you will have a branch of the grafted species grow onto the existing pear tree.

Photos: unless stated they are edited from our own stock, Cheviot Trees and the Woodland Trust