

Free Tree Scheme: Tree Planting Information 2020

All the trees are two years old and approximately 30-60cm 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:

Alder Buckthorn: 3 metres from buildings

Hazel: 5-7 metres from buildings

Rowan: 7-10 metres from buildings

Spindle: 3 metres from buildings

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

Information about this year's trees:

ALDER BUCKTHORN *Frangula alnus*



A deciduous shrub, growing to 3–6 m, occasionally to 7 m tall. The flowers are small, 3–5 mm diameter, star-shaped with five greenish-white petals, flowering in May to June in clusters. The fruit is a small black berry, which is not edible, ripening from green through red in late summer to dark purple or black in early autumn.

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.

COMMON SPINDLE *Euonymus europaeus*



Grows to 3 to 6 m tall. The flowers are produced in late spring and are insect-pollinated; they are small, yellowish green and grow in clusters. The fruit ripens in autumn, and is red to purple or pink in colour and approximately 1 to 1.5 cm wide. When ripe, the four lobes split open to reveal the bright orange seeds (not edible for humans!).

In autumn the leaves usually turn a beautiful bright red colour.