

## TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERING PLANTS FOR SPECIFIC HABITATS

### WOODLAND

The wildlife potential of woodland depends not only on the species of trees growing there, but on the creation of as many layers or storeys of foliage as possible at different heights from the ground. This may mean under-planting a canopy of mature trees with lower growing shrubs; extending the periphery or edge of the existing woodland with trees and shrubs of different mature heights; or the creation of glades and rides by thinning dense, existing woodland to create open spaces in which lower shrubs can be planted.

#### **High Canopy Trees: (More than 10m in height at 20 years)**

Alder: *Alnus glutinosa*; Ht at 20 yrs -15m. Damp / wet soils only.

Ash: *Fraxinus excelsior*; Ht at 20yrs -11m. Will grow in windswept locations, but not in acidic soil. Creates light shade, allowing ground species to thrive below.

Beech: *Fagus sylvatica*; Ht at 20yrs - 10m. Will not tolerate wet soils.

Bird cherry: *Prunus padus*, Ht at 20yrs - 10m.

Broad leaved lime: *Tilia platyphyllos*; Ht at 20yrs - 12m.

Hornbeam: *Carpinus betulus*; Ht at 20yrs - 11m

Mountain ash (Rowan): *Sorbus aucuparia*; Ht at 20yrs -12 m. Thrives on poor soils.

Pedunculate oak: *Quercus petraea*; Ht at 20yrs - 12m. Thrives on acidic soils.

Scots pine: *Pinus sylvestris*; Ht at 20yrs - 12m. Evergreen.

Small leaved lime: *Tilia cordata*; Ht at 20yrs - 12m.

Silver birch: *Betula pendula*; Ht at 20yrs - 18m. Creates light shade allowing ground species to thrive below.

Wild cherry: *Prunus avium*; Ht at 20yrs - 14m. Will not thrive in extremes of soil conditions – dislikes light, dry conditions and heavy clay.

Wild service tree: *Sorbus torminalis*; Ht at 20yrs - 10m.

Willow: *Salix species*; Ht at 20yrs - up to 15m depending on the species.

#### **Intermediate Canopy Trees: ( Between 3 - 9m in height at 20 years.)**

**The smaller trees (3 metres) listed below are also suitable for woodland edges, glades and rides.**

Crab apple: *Malus sylvestris*; Ht at 20yrs - 6m. Will not grow in very wet conditions.

Downy birch: *Betula pubescens*; Ht at 20yrs - 9m.

Elder: *Sambucus nigra*; Ht at 20yrs - 3m.

English oak: *Quercus robur*; Ht at 20yrs - 9m.

Field maple: *Acer campestre*; Ht at 20yrs - 8m.

Goat willow (Sallow or Pussy willow): *Salix petraea*; Ht at 20yrs - 8m.

Hawthorn: *Crataegus monogyna*; Ht at 20yrs - 3m. Thorny.

Hazel: *Corylus avellana*; Ht at 20yrs - 3m.

Holly: *Ilex aquifolia*; Ht at 20yrs - 4m. The only shrub which will survive in low lighting conditions beneath a full deciduous canopy. Evergreen and prickly. Will also survive in windswept, exposed positions.

White beam: *Sorbus aria*; Ht at 20yrs - 9m.

Wild pear: *Pyrus communis*; Ht at 20yrs - 9m.

Wild plum: *Prunus domestica*; Ht at 20yrs - 3m.

Yew: *Taxus baccata*; Ht at 20yrs - 4m. Evergreen.

### **Low Canopy Shrubs and Trees: (up to 3m in height at 10 years.)**

**The small trees and shrubs listed below are suitable for woodland edges, glades and rides.**

Alder buckthorn: *Frangula alnus*; Ht at 10yrs - 2m.

Blackthorn (Sloe): *Prunus spinosa*; Ht at 10yrs - 2m.

Box: *Buxus sempervirens*; Ht at 10yrs - 2m. Evergreen.

Broom: *Cystisus scoparius*; Ht at 10yrs - 2m.

Burnet rose: *Rosa pimpinellifolia*; Ht at 10yrs -1m.

Dogwood: *Cornus sanguinea*; Ht at 10yrs - 2.5m.

Guelder rose: *Viburnum opulus*; Ht at 10yrs - 2.5m.

Juniper: *Juniperus communis*; Ht at 10yrs - 2m. Very slow growing. Dry soils only. Evergreen.

Purging Blackthorn: *Rhamnus catharticus*; Ht at 10yrs - 2m. Dry alkaline soils only.

Spindle: *Euonymus europaeus*; Ht at 10yrs - 2m.

Wayfaring tree: *Viburnum lantana*; Ht at 10yrs - 2.5m. Alkaline soils only.

Wild privet: *Ligustrum vulgare*; Ht at 10yrs - 2m. Evergreen.

### **Woodland Climbers:**

Bramble (Blackberry): *Rubus fruticosus*; Ht: 3m. Invasive.

Dog rose: *Rosa canina*; Ht: 5m.

Honeysuckle: *Lonicera periclymenum*; Ht: 6m.

Ivy: *Hedera helix*; Ht: 30m. Evergreen.

Old Man's Beard (Travellers' Joy): *Clematis vitalba*; Ht: 30m. Thrives on chalky soil.

Sweet briar: *Rosa eglanteria*; Ht: 3m. Very prickly. Will grow on heavy clay soils.

### **Resources:**

1. The Woodland Trust supplies native woodland trees and shrubs by post; these can be ordered online. They will supply; mixes of trees and shrubs by small, medium and large sizes (size at maturity); by environmental context, for example, a Parkland mix, Scottish native mix, etc; or by preference, for example, a fruit and nut mix. The plants are supplied between 20 and 40cm in height so it will be some years before they are mature. Full planting instructions are available on line. The web-site is beautifully illustrated and the pictures can be downloaded. All purchases help to further the work of the Woodland Trust.  
[www.woodlandtrustshop.com](http://www.woodlandtrustshop.com)
2. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteering (BTCV) publishes two excellent guides to the practical creation and maintenance of woodland.  
"Woodlands: a Practical Handbook" ISBN 0 946752 33 8  
"Tree Planting and Aftercare" ISBN 0 946752 25 7  
BTCV also sells tools, health and safety equipment, first aid kits, guides to risk assessment and native provenance trees, shrubs and wildflowers. BTCV Enterprises Ltd: [www.btcv.org](http://www.btcv.org) 01302 572200

