

Planting A Tree?



Species to choose from:

Crab apple favours heavier soils. Its bark is purplish brown with scaly ridges and it has an average height of 9m. Twigs are green-brown with spurs and spines. The buds on a crab apple tree have downy tips and the yellow-green autumn fruits can be used to make crab apple jelly and wine.



Hazel grows well in most conditions except water logged or poor soils. Twigs are pale green-brown and covered with long hairs. Young bark appears bronze, turning pale brown with shallow ridges as the tree ages. Catkins appear from late winter with hazelnuts following in early autumn. If unmanaged, trees will grow to 12-15m.

Rowan grows well in light acidic soils, reaching an average height of 15m. Twigs are slender and purple-grey with purple hairy buds. Bark is greyish silver with dark horizontal markings. Clusters of white flowers appear in late spring with orange-scarlet berries in autumn. Leaves have 15 serrated leaflets arranged in pairs with a single leaf at the tip.



Silver birch favours sandy or acidic soils, growing up to 25m. Twigs are purple-brown with rough white spots on the shoots which are prominent in the sun. Buds are long and sharp and, with age, the bark becomes papery-white with black fissures. The leaves are a distinctive triangular shape with drooping brown catkins in autumn.

Wild cherry prefers rich/heavy soils and can reach a height of 25m. Twigs are hairless and brown with long clustered buds. Bark is purple grey with horizontal markings, which can be peeled back to reveal shiny red patches. Clusters of flowers appear in early April followed by red berries in mid-summer. Leaves have irregular coarse blunt teeth.



All of the above are suitable for garden planting and crab apple and hazel can be planted in large pot or raised bed if space is limited. Be careful where you plan the wild cherry as it has an extensive root system.

Information supplied by the Woodland Trust



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