

## Medium trees 8-18m/30-60'; ornamental species

- Lobel's Maple (*Acer lobelia*); a compact tree with bright green leaves and yellow autumn colour. The young bark is striped
- Sweet Buckeye (*Aesculus flava*); a member of the horse chestnut family with yellow flowers and good autumn colours
- Italian Alder (*Alnus cordata*); has a pyramidal crown with pear like leaves and tolerates wet, dry and chalk soils. Plant container grown
- White Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis* var *jacquemontii*); has a beautiful white bark and thrives in most soils. Plant container grown
- Turkish Hazel (*Corylus colourna*); a distinctive tree with large green leaves and yellow catkins in early spring. Compact when young
- Common Walnut (*Juglans regia*); rough barked with scented pinnate leaves and edible fruit. Plant container grown
- Lime cultivar (*Tilia* 'Harold Hillier'); a handsome, vigorous and narrowly conical tree with good autumn colours. Does not suffer from honey-dew problems.

## Useful contacts and references:

Contact the Tree Team by e-mail at [trees@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:trees@westberks.gov.uk) or phone on **01635 551111** for Council owned trees and general queries.

Contact the Tree Officers for tree works applications, trees and planning applications and trees in Conservation Areas.

### The Tree Officer for the Eastern Area is Jon Thomas

Contact Jon at [jon.thomas@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:jon.thomas@westberks.gov.uk) or on Tel: **01635 519611** ext 2611

### The Tree Officer for the Western Area is Andrew Giles

Contact Andrew at [andrew.giles@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.giles@westberks.gov.uk) or on Tel: **01635 519349** ext 2349

## West Berkshire Council

### Environment

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If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call 01635 519111

## Environment

# Choosing a tree



Choosing what tree to plant can be difficult with the number of different species, cultivars and varieties that are currently available. There are a number of useful books and websites, but if you are still unsure it may be useful to visit a garden or arboretum. There are some basic points that should be considered as follows.

**Soil** - will the tree grow well in the soil in which is to be planted? Acidity, drainage and the type of soil will all have a bearing. Some tree species are more specific than others as to their requirements.

**Local distinctiveness** - what species grow naturally in the area already? Native species are usually best for wildlife and 'fit in' with the landscape character and are normally preferable to ornamental species.

**Available space** - is the tree able to reach its full life expectancy without causing future conflict with buildings, shading, overhanging roads and footpaths etc.? It may not be sensible to replace a large forest type tree in a small domestic garden with another one unless you are prepared to remove it before it outgrows its situation.

**Benefits** - as well as having obvious ornamental attributes, trees provide shelter, reduce temperature extremes and produce oxygen.

Once you have decided on your tree, the next step is to purchase it. Please bear in mind that if you have removed a protected tree (that is one growing in a conservation area or subject to a tree preservation order) there may either be a duty (as in the case of dead, dying or dangerous trees) or a condition (in the case of a tree preservation order application) requiring the planting of a replacement tree. In this situation you may be required to agree the species of the replacement tree with the council before you plant it.

## Buying a tree

You should always buy your tree from a reputable nursery or garden centre which should also be able to provide advice on selecting the right tree. You should bear the following points in mind when selecting or ordering your tree.

- Ensure that the tree has a single, straight undamaged leading shoot or a balanced and well developed branching head according to the species or cultivar
- Ensure there are no damaged branches or areas of bark and the tree is free from obvious pests and diseases
- Bare rooted trees should have a balanced and fibrous root system which has been (and should be) protected from drying out at all times.

## Small trees up to 8m/30'; native species

- Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*); attractive bark and autumn colours. The cultivar 'Darlecarlica', also known as the Swedish birch is a graceful tree with finely cut leaves. Plant container grown
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*); thorny but with good spring and autumn

- colours. The cultivar 'Stricta' has a more upright form
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*); evergreen tree, females have good fruit effects. 'Green Pillar' and 'Pyramidalis' are two of the more compact female cultivars. Plant container grown. Slow growing
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*); good spring and autumn colours. It used to be planted to ward off evil spirits
- Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*); leaves emerge a creamy white in spring. Prefers chalk soils
- Wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*); white flowers in spring, red autumn colours.

## Small trees up to 8m/30'; ornamental species

- Purple Norway Maple variety (*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson Sentry'); columnar tree with reddy purple leaves
- Cut leaved Alder (*Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis'); deeply cut leaves cast light shade. Plant container grown
- Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis* 'Silver Shadow'); compact tree with white bark and large drooping green leaves. Plant container grown
- Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*) Pea shaped pink flowers before leaves on branches, heart shaped leaves
- Pillar Apple (*Malus tschonoskii*); compact with good spring and autumn colours, tolerates heavier soils
- Sargent's Cherry (*Prunus sargentii* 'Rancho'); a compact form with good spring and autumn colours
- Chanticleer Pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'); pyramidal shape with good spring and autumn colours. Tolerates dry sites, plant container grown
- Golden Robinia (*Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia'); a tree with pinnate golden leaves that cast light shade, prefers a well drained soil
- Fern leaved Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia* 'Asplenifolia'); has more deeply serrated leaflets than the type that cast light shade, good autumn colours
- Japanese Rowan (*Sorbus commixta*); a compact tree with attractive winter buds and good spring and autumn colours. *Sorbus* 'Embley' is very similar.

## Medium trees 8-18m/30-60'; native species

- Field Maple (*Acer campestre*); a small leaved tree of character with good autumn colours. The cultivars 'Elsrijk' and 'Streetwise' have a more compact conical habit
- Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*); Thrives on damp sites, good winter colours with twigs and catkins
- Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*); Good bark effects and yellow autumn colours. The cultivar 'Frans Fontaine' is an upright form that retains its habit into maturity. Plant container grown
- Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*); has attractive orangey bark and blue/green needles. Prefers acid soils. Plant container grown
- Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*); also known as gean or mazzard, it has good spring and autumn colours. It does have a large spreading root system so requires plenty of room