Small Trees

Images by Richard Osbourne

Even the smallest of outdoor spaces can support a tree. Trees are very important features in school grounds because they provide a valuable habitat for wildlife, they cast shade for pupils and they provide interest from an aesthetic point of view. You may even be able to harvest some fruits for eating from trees.

Planting Trees

1. The best time to plant trees is between November and March. Avoid planting in frozen or waterlogged soil.
2. Dig a hole large enough for the roots of the tree. Break up the soil in the bottom of the hole. Place the tree in the hole and spread out the roots.
3. If your tree is over 1.5m high a supporting post will be needed. Drive it into the ground before filling in your hole.
4. Fill in the hole with topsoil. Gently shake the tree to ensure the soil is in contact with the roots.
5. Firm the soil around the tree and pull it to check that it is secure.
6. If you are using a post, then strap your tree securely to it.
7. To keep moisture in and prevent weeds from growing, add a mulch mat to the base of the tree or add a 5cm deep layer of bark or wood chippings, to a radius of 50cm.
8. If planting very small trees consider adding a tree shelter. This will give the sapling a better chance of survival by protecting it from wind and grazing animals.
9. If rabbits or deer are present in your grounds then add a rabbit guard to the base of your tree.
10. Water your newly planted tree well and continue to do so on a weekly basis for the first year.
11. Remove the supporting post once your tree can support itself, usually after two years.

Scot's Pine

Contacts

- Natural Surroundings is a centre for wildlife gardening and conservation based in Holt. The centre sells a wide range oif goods related to wildlife gardening and also welcomes school visits: www/hartlana.co.uk/natural
- The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading conservation charity dedicated to the protection of our native woodland heritage: www.woodland-trust.org.uk

Fact

- The tallest tree on earth stands in California. It is a redwood which stands 112m tall!

Attractive Small Trees with Wildlife Value

	Height (cm)	Spread (cm)	Sun or shade	Flower time	Flower Colour	Value
Silver birch ***Betula pendula*** 'Tristis'	750	250	● ●	-		IF
Hazel ***Coyrlus avellana*** 'Contorta'	450	250	● ●	2-3	catkins	IF
Cotoneaster ***Contoneaster horizontalis***	600	350	● ●	4-5	pinkish	IF
Hawthorn ***Crataegus monogyna*** 'Tortuosa'	450	250	● ●	5	pink/white	IFN
Midland hawthorn ***Crataegus laevigata*** 'Paul's Scarlet'	600	350	● ●	4-6	scarlet	IF
Spindle ***Euonymus europaeus***	450	300	● ●	4	white	IF
Crap Apple ***Malus sylvestris*** 'Golden Hornet'	450	350	● ●	4-5	white	IF
Crab Apple ***Malus sylvestris*** 'John Downie'	450	350	●	4	white	I
Crap Apple ***Malus sylvestris*** 'Produsion'	350	350	●	3	red	IF
Bird Cherry ***Prunus padus***	600	450	● ●	5	white	F
Wild pear ***Pyrus pyraster***	450	200	● ●	4	white	IF
Common pear ***Pyrus communis***	450	300	●	5	white	IF
Whitebeam ***Sorbus aria*** 'Lutescens'	600	350	● ●	6	white	IF
Rowan ***Sorbus aucuparia*** 'Beissneri'	450	300	● ●	6	white	IF
Hupeh rowan ***Sorbus hupehensis***	600	300	● ●	5	whitish	F
Holly ***Ilex aquifolium*** 'J C van Tol'	600	300	● ●	4	greenish	FN
Holly ***Ilex aquilfolium*** 'Pyramidalis'	550	300	● ●	4	greenish	FN
Scots Pine ***Pinus sylvestris*** 'Fastigiata'	600	180	●		-	F

● Sun
● Shade
● Semi-shade

I = value for insects
F = value for fruit or berries
N = value for nest site

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