

English Oak

Quercus robur

Origin of the tree: Native to the UK

Size: Tall: 20-40 metres

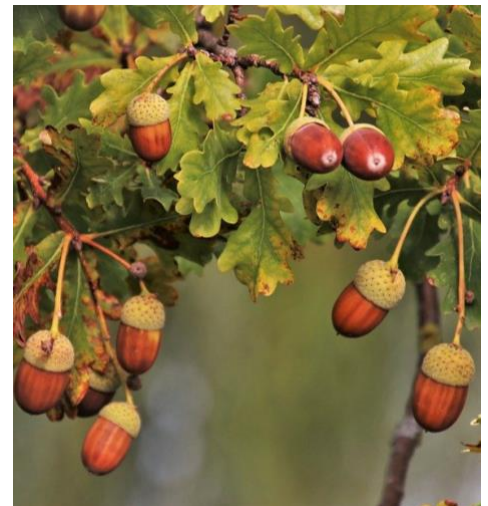
Associated wildlife: Birds, bats, mammals and insects

Grows best in: Deep fertile clays and loams, but will tolerate a wide range of soils

Did you know?

- ⇒ Oak forests support more life forms than any other native forest.
- ⇒ Some of the largest oaks in Britain are thought to be over 1,000 years old.
- ⇒ The purple hairstreak butterfly breeds solely on oak trees.

Identify an English Oak



How to grow an oak tree

1. Collect the acorns from the tree when they are brown in the autumn.
2. Separate the acorns from their cups.
3. Float the acorns in a bucket of water and only plant the ones that sink.
4. Sow the acorns in a pot or recycled milk jug to a depth of 10 cm, covered by a thin layer of compost.
5. Protect your acorn from predators. The roots will grow over the winter months. Shoots will emerge in late April.
6. When your seedlings are 25cm high, transfer them to a larger pots.
7. After one or two years the young trees will be ready to plant in the ground.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Year 1									collect & sow	grow		
Year 2										plant		
Year 3												

Field Maple

Acer campestre

Origin of the tree: The UK's only native maple

Associated wildlife: Birds, small mammals and insects, especially moths

Size: Medium, approx. 10-15 metres

Grows best in: Prefers lime-rich soil, but tolerates other conditions

Did you know?

- ⇒ Field maples are often grown in parks and gardens because of its beautiful autumn colour and their ability to tolerate air pollution.
- ⇒ Wood from field maples was used historically to make harps.

Identify a Field Maple



All seeds come in pairs that are joined together almost in a straight line, and may have pink tinges.

How to grow a field maple

1. Collect the winged seeds from the tree when they are brown in October / early November.
2. Stratify the seed for one winter (find more information on the next page).
3. Sow the germinated seeds in spring in either a pot or a recycled milk jug to a depth of 1 cm.
4. Grow your seeds until they are 20 cm or more tall, ready to plant in the ground.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Year 1										collect	stratify	
Year 2			sow	grow						plant		
Year 3												



This resource has been created with help of



the Tree Council and



John Atkin

Stratify Field Maple

1. Soak the seed for 24 h.
2. Place your seed either in a napkin, peat moss or vermiculite in a zip-lock bag and add a couple of drops of water. Add the seeds, expel most air and close the bag. Store the seeds for 4 months in the fridge.
3. Check your seeds every week or two. If you notice any mould or black spots, remove the affected seed and discard.
4. If the seeds have begun to sprout, remove them from the refrigerator.
5. Sow your seed approximately 1 cm under moist soil in, for example, a recycled milk jug with a hole cut in the bottom for drainage.
6. Once your seed has had time to grow (approx. two seasons), you can plant your field maple in its permanent place. Field maples do well in partial shade.

Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus

Origin of the tree: UK native tree

Associated wildlife: Birds, small mammals and insects, especially hawfinches

Size: Can be used as small/medium hedge or grown with space into a large 25 metres tree.

Grows best in: Prefers damp, fertile soils, but tolerates a range of other conditions.

Did you know?

- ⇒ Hornbeam is one of the hardest woods in Britain. The name hornbeam derives from the fact that the wood is as hard as horn.
- ⇒ Hornbeams produce beautiful autumn colours and retain their leaves throughout the winter which makes it a wildlife winter-heaven.

Identify a Hornbeam



Hornbeam fruits are a very unusual shape. Each heart-shaped fruit is attached to a leafy three-lobed structure known as a bract.

How to grow a Hornbeam

1. Collect the fruits from the tree after the bracts have turned brown.
2. Stratify the seed for one winter (find more information on the next page)
3. Once the seeds start germinating, sow them in either a pot or a recycled milk jug.
4. When the hornbeam reaches approximately 50 cm, plant it in its permanent position.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Year 1											collect	stratify
Year 2				sow	grow					plant		
Year 3												



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Stratify Hornbeam

1. Collect your seeds at the end of October or in November.
2. Soak for 24 h and crush the seed case clusters to release the brown seeds. Discard any seeds that float.
3. Place your seed either in a napkin, peat moss or vermiculite in a zip-lock bag and keep moistened. If you have many hornbeam seeds, layer the moistened mixture and seeds in a pot.
4. Keep your seeds in your bag or pot at a room temperature approx. 20 °C for 4 weeks, making sure that the seeds don't dry out.
5. Move your seeds to the fridge where they stay until the start of spring. Check your seeds regularly.
6. When the seeds germinate, usually at the beginning of April, put them in a pot at no more than 1 cm deep, in a sheltered position outside.
7. Grow your seedlings over spring and summer, remembering to keep them well-watered when conditions are hot and dry, but never with the roots sitting in standing water.
8. Plant your little hornbeam in its permanent position in October or you can choose to grow your tree for a further year, before planting it in its permanent position.

Hazel

Corylus avellana

Origin of the tree: UK native tree

Associated wildlife: Mammals and insects, especially squirrels and dormice

Size: 12 metres

Grows best in: Wide range of soils incl. chalk, limestone, mildly acid soils and clays

Did you know?

- ⇒ Hazel's male catkins often appear in January or February, adding the first splash of colour to the winter woodlands.
- ⇒ Fences and thatching spars are often made out of hazel wood as the wood coppiced for its thin, flexible poles.
- ⇒ The coppiced woodland habitat support wildflowers, butterflies and provides shelter for ground-nesting birds.

Identify a Hazel



The leaves are soft and hairy. The nuts grow in clusters of up to four, enclosed by a leafy structure known as a 'bract'.

How to grow a Hazel

1. The ideal time to collect is when the nut is easy to remove from the husk. This indicates that they are just about ready to fall.
2. Carefully pull the clusters of nuts from the branches and keep in buckets or breathable bags.
3. Throw the hazelnuts (without husks) in a bucket of water. Those that sink will be most likely to grow.
4. Stratify hazel as shown on the back of this page for one winter.
5. Sow the seeds when they show signs of germination (check them from the end of February) in pots. Place two seeds about 2-3cm deep, firm and water.
6. Keep the pots moist.
7. Plant your hazel tree in the ground when it is two years old.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Year 1									collect		stratify	
Year 2				sow and grow	sow and grow	sow and grow	sow and grow	sow and grow	sow and grow	plant		
Year 3												



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Stratify Hazel

1. Create a mixture of leaf litter, sand and your selected hazelnuts to keep your nuts moistened over winter (damp, but not soggy).
2. If you have a number of hazelnuts, layer the hazelnuts and your mixture within the same pot. Make sure you cover your pot with netting such as wire mesh as mice love hazelnuts and will try to get to them.
3. Leave your pots over winter in a shady area outside, checking on them regularly from February onwards to see if any of the seeds have started to germinate.
4. In pots or recycled milk jugs, place one or two seeds about 2-3 cm deep, firmly covering the hazelnuts with soil. Keep the pots moist and covering your pots with netting.
5. Once your plant is about two years old, plant your hazel to its permanent position and remove the netting. Keep the ground weed-free and moist.

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