

Information Sheet 6

Trees and Shrubs for Towns, Villages and Wildlife



The planting of trees can provide an immediate benefit in cities, towns and villages, and indeed research has suggested that the presence of structural planting is a key element in the urban environment for wildlife. However, not all tree species do very well in our cities, towns and villages and may even prove problematic as they grow and mature.

The list below gives some ideas of the sort of trees that are wildlife and urban environment friendly.

Tree or Shrub	Wildlife likely to be attracted	Notes
<i>Quercus robur</i> (oak)	Bats, tawny owl all sorts of birds and moths and wildlife, this one really is a bit special.	For larger spaces
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (ash)	Privet Hawk moth, bullfinch	For larger spaces
<i>Prunus avium</i> (wild cherry)	Eyed hawk moth, birds such as thrushes	For larger spaces
<i>Acer campestre</i> (field maple)	Sycamore moth	For larger spaces
<i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazel)	Great tit, moths, small mammals such as squirrels.	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (hawthorn)	Lots of insects, especially moths such as the brimstone moth, lots of birds such as song thrush chaffinch etc.	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> (elder)	Good for lots of wildlife, song thrushes, bullfinches, chaffinches, and moths such as swallow tailed moth.	
<i>Rosa canina</i> (dog rose)	Good for birds such as thrushes and also mammals such as squirrels.	
<i>Malus sylvestris</i> (crab apple)	Eyed hawk moth, all sorts of birds such as thrushes and bullfinches, mammals such as squirrels.	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> (dogwood)	Holly blue butterfly, robins, mistle thrush	
<i>Tilia</i> sp. (lime)	Moths such as the peppered moth.	For larger spaces
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (alder)	Birds such as redstart and moths such as swallow tailed moth. Also goldfinches.	
<i>Salix caprea</i> (goat willow)	Blue and great tits, lots of moths such as brimstone, peppered and eyed hawk moth.	
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> (geulder rose)	Birds such as mistle thrush and redwing	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> (Rowan/Mountain Ash).	Birds such as redstart, fieldfare and thrushes (mistle and song).	
Wild Privet (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)	Privet hawk moths, birds such as song thrush.	
Purging Buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>)	Brimstone butterflies, birds such as robins and mistle thrush	
Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>)	Moths and seed eating birds	For larger spaces
Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	Holly blue butterfly, privet hawk moth, all sorts of birds, robins, chaffinch etc.	
Spindle (<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>)	Blue tit, ladybirds, magpie moth.	
Fruit trees and bushes are also good. For example apple, pear, cherry etc.	Red admiral butterflies, song thrush, bullfinches.	
Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	Coal tit, redstart.	

Where can I go for further advice?

The Natural & Historic Environment Team at Peterborough City Council are happy to provide more specific help. The City Council also services a growing network of voluntary Pond and Tree Wardens who might also help with your ideas. The local Wildlife Trust (01733 294543) may also be willing to offer some assistance.

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