

### Hedge Plants and Trees to Improve Biodiversity

Species Name	February	March	April	May	June-August	Autumn	Winter	Needs	Additional Information	
<b>Plants for Wildlife Hedges</b>										
Alder Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>				Small white flowers	Small white flowers	Berries: red then purple-black	dark stems with white streaks	Acid - neutral soil. Tolerates partial shade	Leaves foodplant of Brimstone Butterfly caterpillars. Pollen & nectar for pollinating insects, berries for birds
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Male catkins & female flowers on same tree	Male catkins & female flowers on same tree	leaves change from soft light green to darker green	Nuts	copper coloured lves remain over winter	wide range soil. Not too wet. Tolerates partial shade	wind-pollinated. When cut as a hedge may not have flowers or fruit. Leaves important for 64 insects including some moth caterpillars
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>		white flowers before leaves				blue berries: sloes used for sloe gin		Well drained soil, full sunlight	Sharp thorns so unsuitable for gardens with children but good to keep out intruders. Twigs good for lichens. Supports early pollinators,>100 invertebrates eat the leaves, birds eat berries. Good protection for nesting birds, and animals which are protected beneath it eg bank voles, shrews, hedgehogs & hibernating reptiles and amphibians. Can be invasive
Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	white flowers before leaves					yellow or red fruit		Prefers full sunlight	Good for early pollinators. Fruit eaten by birds & humans, Non native but naturalised in UK
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.					Pink flowers	Red rose hips		Wide range of soils. Likes full sun	Important nectar source for insects. Birds and small mammals eat rose hips. Various insects eat /use leaves eg leaf-cutter bees. Leaf buds may be used by a gall wasp. Can be harvested to make rose hip syrup. Prickly so not suitable in gardens with small children

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Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>				white flowers in clusters		leaves turn red, black berries	green stems in shade, stems in sunlight & new twigs red	Wide range soil. Tolerates damp soils. Full sun or partial shade	Flowers good for pollinators, leaves eaten by invertebrates including moth caterpillars, berries eaten by birds
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>				Flowers yellow-green hang in clusters		golden yellow leaves, brown winged fruit		Wide range of soils. Tolerates partial shade	Good for pollinating insects, leaves important for several moth species, other insects & their predators. Fruit eaten by voles, twigs good for lichens
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>				creamy white. Flat-topped-similar structure to hydrangea		translucent red berries, stunning orange-red leaves		Wide range of soils including damp places. Full sun or partial shade	Flowers important for pollinators esp. hoverflies. Berries eaten by birds
Hawthorn (Common)	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>				white flowers		Red berries		Wide range soils, but flowers & fruits best in sunny places	Fast growing. Important for pollinators. 149 invertebrates specialise in eating leaves, can support 300+ insects. Fruit important for birds. Slightly thorny so protects nesting birds, small mammals, hibernating reptiles & amphibians
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	yellow male catkins & small female red 'flowers' on same twig. Wind pollinated				nuts start to mature in August	Nuts		Wide range of soils. Will tolerate shade	Early bees may take pollen. Leaves eaten by >70 insects including some moth species. Woody stems can be cut at base for use as bean poles. Nuts eaten by birds & mammals eg nuthatch, jays, squirrels

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Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>				Separate male & female plants. Small yellow-white flowers		red berries on female plants	evergreen	Wide range of soils. Will tolerate shade	Pollinated by insects, leaves important for a tiny fly, <i>Phytomyza ilicis</i> , whose larvae form blotch mines within it. Young leaves & buds eaten by holly blue butterfly caterpillars. Fruit eaten by birds eg mistle thrush after 1st frost. Lower leaves prickly so may be unsuitable for gardens with children
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>			Wind pollinated male & female catkins on the same tree			leaves yellow orange. Fruit: nutlets in leafy bracts hang down in tiered clusters	In hedgerows it will keep its leaves over winter	Range of soils, tolerates shade but doesn't tolerate waterlogging.	May not produce flowers & fruit when in a hedgerow. Leaves eaten by 28 insects including several moth caterpillars. Protects birds & animals in winter. Finches, tits & small mammals eat seeds
Purging Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>				yellow-green flowers male & female on different plants		purple/black berries contain seeds.		Generally on calcareous soil. Sun or partial shade	Brimstone butterfly caterpillars & tiger moth larvae eat leaves. Pollen & nectar for insects incl. bees. Birds eat berries. Suckers
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaea</i>				Small white flowers		leaves orange - red, striking pink berries with orange seeds	Small twigs green in winter	Prefers chalk soil. Sometimes in areas where concrete beneath soil	Pollinated by insects, particularly flies. Leaves eaten by some moth caterpillars. Aphids suck sap & attract predators e.g. hoverflies, lacewings and birds such as long-tailed tit & house sparrows
Wayfaring Tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>				Creamy white flowers in flat-topped head		Berries red, becoming black		Prefers chalk soils in sunny places but will grow elsewhere	Leaves eaten by some moth caterpillars. Flowers pollinated by insects, including hoverflies. Berries eaten by birds & small mammals but poisonous for humans.

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Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>			Male & female flowers on different trees. Wind pollinated	Male & female flowers on different trees. Wind pollinated		red berries	evergreen	Wide range of soils. Tolerates shade	Poisonous. Leaves eaten by caterpillars of satin beauty moth. Fruit taken by birds eg mistle thrush who survive because they do not break down the poisonous seed. Forms dense hedgerows which protect birds.
<b>Small Native Trees for Wildlife (not suitable for hedging)</b>										
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>			Scented pink/white flowers			Yellowish apples		Tolerant of a range of soils, prefers loam. Sun or partial shade	Rare. Leaves food for many moth caterpillars, pollen & nectar important for pollinators, fruit eaten by invertebrates, birds & mammals. Many lichens grow on the bark.
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>				Flat white flowers. Can be used to make cordial		purple black berries		Prefers nutrient rich soil but not essential. Full sun or partial shade	Flowers used by pollinating insects, fruit taken by birds & mammals, leaves eaten by some moth caterpillars.
Rowan (Mountain Ash)	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>				Creamy white flowers		scarlet berries		prefers light well drained soils (acid or alkaline). Full sun or partial shade.	A small tree often planted in gardens. Flowers provide pollen and nectar for pollinating insects, berries taken by birds
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>			Male catkins yellow-brown, hang down. Female catkins erect, green on same tree. Wind pollinated		Fruit brown, hangs down like a catkin & disintegrates releasing winged seeds.	Yellow leaves		Tolerates wide range of soils. Sun or partial shade	The only food plant for many foliage eaters (229), mites (105), lichens (126). Birds including redpoll, siskins & greenfinches eat the seeds.

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<b>Native Trees for larger areas (not to be planted close to a house)</b>									
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	Catkins (also known as lambs tails) seen in Feb/March. Male & female flowers on separate trees, wind pollinated			Seeds in capsules surrounded by fluff. Wind dispersed.			Prefers damp soils, tolerates clay soil. Prefers light situations	Short lived (50years). Fast growing, can grow to 12m. Will spread by suckers as well as seed. Supports > 90 insects including many moth species
Goat (pussy) willow	<i>Salix capraea</i>		Male & female catkins on separate trees. Insect pollinated. Male catkins soft & grey (hence pussy willow) until yellow pollen ripens. Females pale green		Seeds surrounded by fine hairs within capsules. Wind dispersed			Most soil types. sun or partial shade	Important sources of pollen (male) & nectar (male & female) for early insects eg bees. Leaves important food for many invertebrate larvae, esp. moths. Larvae important for birds with young in spring, adult moths taken by bats.
Lime: Small-leaved	<i>Tilia cordata</i>					Small whitish green sweetly scented flowers July		Prefers fertile soil. Full sun or partial shade	Rare. Flowers provide nectar & pollen for many insects, especially bees. Leaves eaten by caterpillars of many moth species, including the lime hawk, peppered, vapourer, triangle and scarce hook-tip moths & attract aphids which produce honeydew drunk by bees. The aphids are food source for predators, eg hoverflies, ladybirds & some birds.

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Oak: Pedunculate, sessile or hybrid between them.	<i>Quercus robur</i> = Pedunculat e/English Oak, <i>Q. sessilis</i> = Sessile Oak)			Flowers: long yellow male catkins, females small, round and reddish. Both on the same tree. Wind pollinated			acorns	When kept cut as a hedge may retain some leaves in winter	Tolerates a range of soil.	May live to a 1000 years. Supports a great diversity of herbivores from specialist foliage eaters (284) and mites (139), generalist invertebrates, numerous gall wasps, 324 lichens and many fungi. Acorns provide food for small mammals and some birds such as jays who stache many away for the winter.
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>			White flowers in umbels pollinated by insects including bees		cherries ripen- yellow/red	orange/red leaves		Tolerates range of soil types. Sun or partial shade	Leaves are food for moth caterpillars. Nectar & pollen food for early pollinators. Fruit eaten by birds and mammals.
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>				White flowers		orange/red fruit		Prefers chalk soils but tolerates others. Full sun & Partial shade	pollinated by insects. Berries eaten by birds. Leaves eaten by caterpillars of several moths.

**Note 1:** Beech, Field Maple, Hornbeam, and Yew (see under hedge plants) grow into large trees if not kept cut as a hedge (in winter).

**Note 2:** Oak can also be used for either hedging (if regularly cut in winter) or allowed to grow into a tree **but as a tree is not suitable for small gardens or near buildings due to large root system**

**Note 3:** Alder Buckthorn, Hawthorn, Holly, Purging Buckthorn, Spindle and Wayfaring Tree grow into small trees if not managed as a hedge

**Note 4:** If your house is built on **clay** you should avoid planting trees which need a lot of water near your house as when clay soil dries it shrinks which can lead to subsidence. These trees include oak, poplar, willows, aspen and elm. Trees which take up less water and are therefore unlikely to cause a problem include hazel, hawthorn, silver birch, elder, hornbeam and holly. See Woodland Trust & RHS websites.