



FREE TREES FOR BABIES

Tree Species List 2023/24

You can choose your preferred type of tree from the following list of available trees. Please note that we will try to provide you with the type of tree you choose but it will depend on demand.

Trees available:

- **Field maple**
- **Sessile oak**
- **Bird cherry**
- **Crab apple**

See the tables below for more information on the tree types available for 2024.

Field maple (*Acer campestre*)



Field maple is the UK's only native maple tree. Found growing in woods and hedgerows, it's a medium-sized, deciduous tree with a rounded, bushy crown. It has attractive lobed leaves that turn golden yellow in autumn. Tiny flowers in spring are followed by winged fruits

As a British native, it is excellent for wildlife: its leaves attract ladybirds and hoverflies. The caterpillars of several species of moth feed on its leaves, and bees and other pollinators visit its flowers. It's tolerant of pollution and exposed sites.

Grow Field maple in any moist but well drained soil, in sun or partial shade. Field maple grown as a tree does not need pruning, but it can be pruned in early winter to keep it at the desired height.

A medium-sized deciduous tree with a compact bushy crown. It is suitable for a medium sized garden.

Approx. mature height

7m – 12m

Approx. mature spread

3m – 6m

Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*)



Sessile oak is a large deciduous tree forming a broad, rounded crown, with rather leathery, dark green, lobed leaves to 15cm long, turning orange-brown in autumn. Inconspicuous yellowish flowers in catkins with the young leaves.

The most common and abundant of the oaks found in Britain and Ireland, especially in the north and west, the sessile oak usually has a much taller and straighter trunk than the English oak, with branching beginning much further above the ground. The crown of the tree is narrow in comparison with the spreading shape of an English oak.

Squirrels, jays and badgers love their acorns and caterpillars flock to eat their leaves, in fact 326 species of wildlife are found only on oak.

Approx. mature height	Approx. mature spread
20m – 40m	15m – 20m

Bird cherry (*Prunus padus*)



Bird Cherry is an attractive flowering native tree with almond scented flowers in May which are held on long slender racemes and provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bees. These turn into small black bitter fruits which are eaten by birds. Good orange yellow leaf colour in autumn.

Approx. mature height	Approx. mature spread
10m – 15m	5m – 10m

Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*)



Our native Crab apple is a pretty tree with abundant white flower in the spring followed by red flushed fruits in the autumn which are great for wildlife. Green summer leaves turn a crisp yellow in the autumn before falling.

A symbol of fertility and a forager's delight. Crab apple trees are associated with love and marriage and its small, hard fruits make an exquisite, jewel-coloured jelly.

Malus is best suited to heavy soils, including clay, and make fine small trees for most gardens. Crab apple tolerates a hard prune if required although generally needs little maintenance.

Approx. mature height	Approx. mature spread
8m – 10m	4m – 6m