

Top Tree Growing Tips!

Hurray, you've decided to grow a tree! Before you start digging, consider:

1. Your site
2. Which species would be best suited to your chosen spot
3. The best approach to planting
4. Aftercare and love

Where to plant?

Gardens If you own a garden, you don't need to ask anyone's permission to grow there!

Pots Growing a tree in a pot is possible – many species will thrive with enough soil and water and it's a great alternative if you don't have access to outside space.

Public Spaces Growing trees in public spaces is more complicated – you will need the landowner's permission. This could be your local authority if the area you are considering is a local park or alongside a footpath.

Right tree, right place

Growing the right tree in the right place for the right reason is vital. Different species prefer different soil types and weather conditions.



Location checklist

**Who owns the land?
Who will carry out the planting?
How much space is there?
Which species will grow best in these conditions?**

Which species?

Copy nature Look at the trees already thriving in your chosen area.

Consider native There are more than 60 native UK species, including oaks, birches and alder.

Fruit and leaves Consider that dropped fruit and large leaves can make it slippery underfoot.

Health Avoid trees with poisonous fruits (eg. yew) in areas frequented by children and animals.

Height and spread Trees get big! Assess how well your tree will fit in when fully mature.

Soil type and water Try and choose your species based on suitable conditions underground.

Species Guidance

The Tree Council's Tree Grower's Guide on tree identification and characteristics.

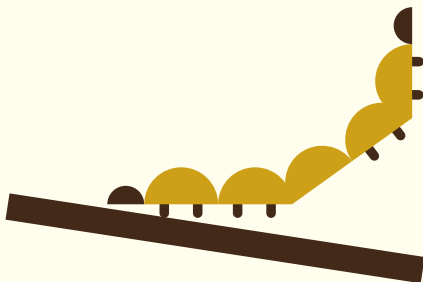
The RHS on choosing the right tree for your garden.

The Woodland Trust's guide to UK native trees.



From Seed

Of course, trees can be grown from seed, and The Tree Council encourages it! It just takes a little more planning – watch out for Seed Gathering Season each autumn.



Aftercare

Mulching This can include leaf litter, lawn clippings or composted bark. It helps the tree retain moisture and reduces weeds. Spread a 50mm layer around the base of the tree out to a one metre diameter, leaving space around the stem to avoid rot.

Weeds Young trees need moisture, light, nutrients and space. Cut down the competition by keeping the one metre diameter of the base of your tree weed free – mulching helps with this.

Guards Only necessary if you are planting in areas frequented by animals, such as deer or rabbits.

Weather Check your tree after high winds and frosts to make sure their roots remain covered.

Visual learner?

Learn how to plant trees and hedgerows so they establish and thrive with our [handy video](#).