



2. Planning ahead

Guidance to help you find
the right seeds to grow in
the right locations





Right tree, right place

When you're choosing a tree to plant, think carefully about the space it's going to live in. Trees are unique - just like us - so we need to find their perfect habitat. How big will it grow? How much space does it need? Where will it grow big and tall?

Look at the four tree species below. What are their unique characteristics? What do they need? Match each tree to the best growing location on the plan below.

Horse chestnut



Horse chestnuts can grow to be very large trees (up to 30m tall) and are therefore best grown in open spaces, such as parks and gardens. You'll probably know them from the 'conkers' they produce.

Alder



Alders grow in a variety of soil types but prefer damp soil, including wet woodlands and on the banks of rivers and ponds. Alder roots lock nitrogen into the soil so they can even improve poor soils.

Rowan

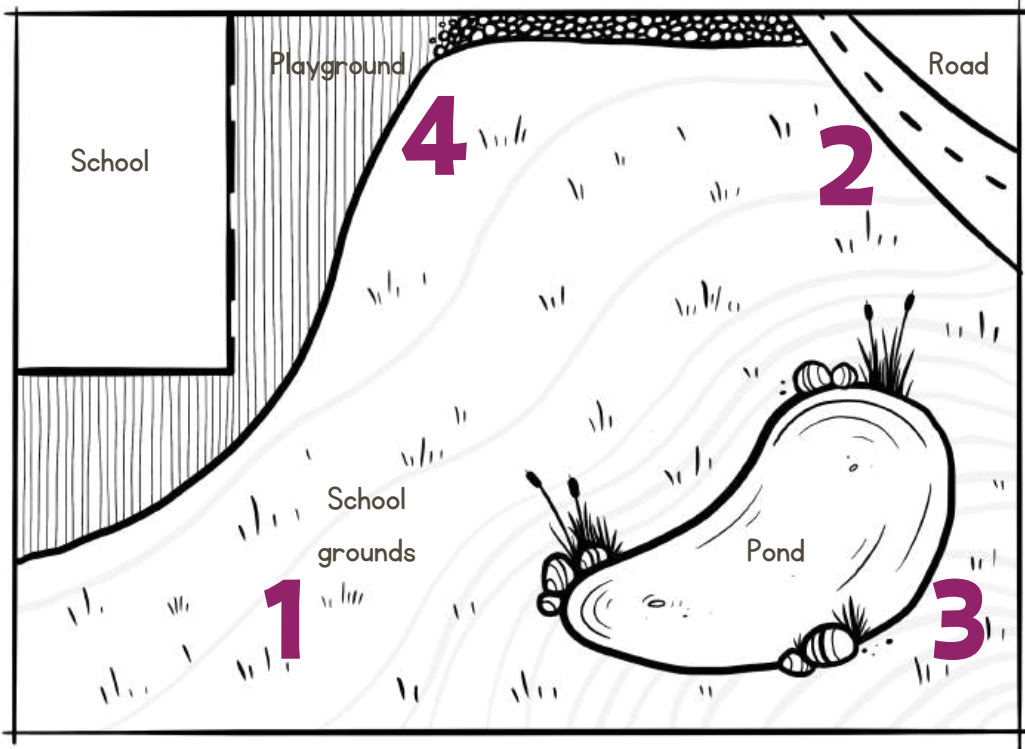


Rowans are quite small trees (up to 15 m tall) making them suitable for growing near buildings. They do best on well-drained soils and can handle some shade but the berries colour best in full sun.

Hawthorn



Hawthorns are everywhere! They tolerate many different soils and are often found in hedgerows by roads. They're a wildlife superhero, their flowers providing food for insects and birds.



Location	Species recommended
1	
2	
3	
4	



Tree calendar

Did you know most seeds need to be exposed to the cold before they can grow. They sprout after winter so they don't get killed by frost!

2.2 - Planning ahead

Use our calendar to plan your exciting tree planting journey!

Stratifying is when we put seeds in a sandy, compost mix outside over winter so they feel the cold and then know when it's time to germinate

Year 1	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Explore! Look for trees where you can gather seeds - in ancient woodlands, hedgerows, orchards, parks. Remember to ask permission from the landowner.			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	Sow! Oak, beech and chestnut seeds can be sown. Stratify! Others need time and cold to germinate.		Sow! Use compost in pots or sow your stratified seeds outside.	Care for your seedlings...
Year 2	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	...This might take a while, so you'll need to wait patiently...			
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Watch them flourish and develop their first roots and shoots.		Once your trees are 20cm tall, you can <u>plant</u> them in their final growing locations.	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	It's best to do this in the winter and make sure you have thought carefully about finding the right place for the right tree, so it doesn't have to be moved!			

Useful vocab

Dormancy - when a seed is inactive during cold winter months. This process ensures that seeds don't germinate during the winter, when young seedlings might be killed by the cold.

Remember! Different species have different needs. Research your species before getting started, check out www.treegrowersguide.org.uk



Tree declaration

As a tree planter, you hold the key to giving trees the love and care they need to thrive.

Read and sign this declaration and remember it as you watch your trees grow.

I, _____, promise to take care of the trees I have planted.

I will:

Tell people where they are so they won't accidentally hurt them.

Remove weeds for the first 2-3 years so my trees will get enough water and food to grow strong!

Water them if there's a long time without rain.

Check their guards aren't damaging them and fix them right away if they need it.

Watch out for pests and protect my trees.

I promise to be a responsible tree caretaker and help my trees grow happy and healthy!

Signed: _____

Date: _____