

# Native Biodiversity-friendly Trees



*All native tree planting is a climate action, and will benefit biodiversity, as well as human health and wellbeing.*

Those trees that are specifically good for pollinators are highlighted with the bee icon.

## Hawthorn/ Whitethorn



Hawthorn/ Whitethorn is also called the 'Maybush' because of its beautiful display of blossoms each May. It is a common hedgerow species, but can also be grown as a standalone tree - a very wildlife-friendly option, producing lots of flowers for pollinators and red haws in autumn for birds

to enjoy. Hawthorn supports c.149 insect species.

## Blackthorn



Blackthorn provides a home for 109 insect species. Related to cherries and plums, the fruit of the blackthorn resemble small plums and are enjoyed by lots of animals, including wood mice, finches and foxes.

## Oak



Oak is Ireland's national tree and its ability to sustain biodiversity makes it hugely important to our wildlife. Oak supports 284 different insect species, 324 lichens, and can live for 1,000 years.

While Oak is a large tree when fully grown - growing up to 40m in height - perhaps there is room in a club with large grounds for such an important tree.

## Willow



Willow supports 266 insect species and 160 lichens. Goat or Grey willows are wonderful plants for pollinators as they provide lots of pollen and nectar in their tiny flowers in early spring when there is little else in flower. Willows can be

grown easily from cuttings.



## Ash



**Ash** is a common native Irish tree, which supports 41 native insects and 255 lichens. The wood from ash trees has been used to make hurleys for thousands of years.

## Rowan



**Rowan** is also known as 'Mountain Ash' as it has similar leaves to the ash tree. Rowan supports 28 insects and 125 lichens. It is a very attractive tree, with white flower clusters in spring for pollinators, and red berries in autumn.

## Birch



**Birch** can be recognised by its silver-white peeling bark. Birch supports 229 insect species and 126 lichens. In spring, its growth of seed-rich yellow-brown catkins attracts birds.

## Hazel



**Hazel** is a small native tree or shrub that produces edible hazelnuts in autumn for mammals and birds. Hazel also supports 73 insect species and 160 lichens.

## Wild Cherry



**Wild Cherry** is a pretty native tree that will provide food for pollinators as well as fruit for birds.

## Crab Apple



**Crab Apple** can be found in many of our old native hedgerows. It supports 93 insect species, including pollinators, and crab apples provide food for birds and mammals in autumn.

\*Insect & lichen diversity based on UK Research and refers to Britain. It is included here to demonstrate how important different native trees are to biodiversity. Ref. Southwood, T.R.E (1961) The number of species of insect associated with various trees. *J. Animal Ecology* 30:1-8. Rose F. and Harding, P.T. (1978) Pasture and woodlands in Lowland Britain and their importance for the conservation of the epiphytes and invertebrates associated with old trees. Nature Conservancy Council & The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.