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.

**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.

[Website link: www.pollinators.ie]
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 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 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 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 is a pretty native tree that will provide food for pollinators as well as fruit for birds.

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.