



Tree Packs

We are proud to be working with our partner nursery [Frank P Matthews](#), established in 1901 and based in rural Worcestershire. The following trees have carefully selected for their size and suitability for different school grounds. (All photos in this document copyright Frank P Matthews)

Small Trees

These trees were all chosen for their hardiness in that they will thrive in most situations they are all small so will be good for schools with limited space or who want to plant in large containers. They also all have interest throughout the year and will give the school an opportunity to tell a story from one or more of the project's themes.



Hawthorn - *Crataegus laevigata* 'Pauls Scarlet'

This is a cultivar of our native hawthorn and has bright pink double flowers in May and bright red berries in autumn which are great for wildlife. It can be grown as a standard or clipped into a small bush or incorporated into a hedge. It is said that hawthorn was the most likely tree to be inhabited by fairies!

It will tolerate a wide range of well drained soils. Extremely hardy and ideal for small sites. Prefer full sun or partial shade.



Crab apple varieties

Beautiful little trees with excellent spring blossom and autumn leaf colour. They produce tiny apples in autumn. Crab apples are traditionally used as pollinators for apple trees and the fruit and flowers are great for wildlife. The fruit can be used to make jelly and also to help set other jams because they contain pectin.



Flowering cherry varieties

We have selected a variety of small flowering cherries providing beautiful white blossom in spring and great autumn colour as the leaves turn bright orange through to red. The flowers provide pollen for insects in early spring. Best grown in well-drained soil, in full sun to achieve the best flower display and autumn colour. Will tolerate most soil types including chalk and clay.



Holly – *Ilex aquifolium*

This is a slow growing small tree which produces white flowers in May and red berries on female plants around November which provide a good source of food for birds. This plant is able to adapt to different conditions, will grow on almost any well drained soil, and is extremely tolerant of shady conditions. A versatile evergreen, multi-purpose tree for screens, hedges or standalone.



Mountain ash varieties

Small elegant trees with dark green fern-like leaves that turn orange or bronze in autumn. The pink fruit turn white as they age. They grow in moderately fertile, humus-rich, well-drained soil in full sun or light shade. Hardy and tolerant of urban pollution and coastal conditions.

Medium trees

These trees were all chosen for their hardiness in that they will thrive in most situations and soils, they are all small or medium sized trees so will be good for schools with limited space. They also all have interest throughout the year and will give the school an opportunity to tell a story from one or more of the projects themes.



Field maple - *Acer campestre*

The field maple is a small native species tree that is often found in hedgerows. It has small 5-lobed leaves that turn golden in autumn. It has yellow/green flowers in early spring and helicopter seeds in autumn. The flowers provide pollen for insects in early spring and the seeds provide food for mice and other small mammals in autumn. Its wood is the hardest of all European maples and was traditionally used for musical instruments and turned objects.



White birch - *Betula alba pendula*

This is an elegant tree with a light canopy that gives lovely, dappled shade. It has catkins in spring and small diamond shaped leaves that turn butter yellow in autumn. It is most striking in winter because of its white/silver bark and gently weeping branches. Birch is a pioneer species and supports over 300 species of plants and animals its bark is used in tanning leather and in some countries the sap is tapped in spring and made into a drink.

They will succeed on most soils with certain species happy even in wet sites. Best planted in a full sun.



Black alder - *Alnus glutinosa*

A native tree to the UK which has grey green leaves and long red tinged catkins in spring. It is one of the only deciduous broadleaf trees to have cones. Alder has special relationship with soil flora that allows it to fix nitrogen which means it can grow in poor soil in Europe its timber was used of making clogs and wooden soled shoes. Fast and easy to grow, thriving even in waterlogged soil. Excellent for shelter belts. Respond well to coppicing and heavy pruning at any stage.



Mountain ash varieties

They have yellow green pinnate leaves and bright red shoots. Their leaves turn a range of reds and oranges in autumn and they have heavy clusters of bright orange-red berries in late summer as well as cream flowers in spring. The flowers provide pollen for insects in early spring and the berries are eaten by birds and other animals, the berries are also rich in vitamin C and have been used in traditional medicine. The mountain ash also features in British and European folklore.



Flowering cherries

We have selected a variety of white and pink flowering cherries with excellent autumn colour. The abundant blossom in early spring provide vital pollen for insects and the fruit is later eaten by birds. Cherry blossom is integral to the Japanese traditional custom of Hanami - enjoying the transient beauty of flowers. Best grown in well-drained soil, in full sun to achieve the best flower display and autumn colour. Will tolerate most soil types including chalk and clay.

Large trees

These trees were all chosen for their hardiness in that they will thrive in most situations they are all larger trees so will be good for schools with more space like playing field edges or larger wildlife areas. They also all have interest throughout the year and will give the school an opportunity to tell a story from one or more of the projects themes.



Horse Chestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum*

The horse chestnut or conker tree is a large deciduous tree native of South East Europe. It has very large green hand-shaped leaves that open from large sticky buds in spring. These are followed by creamy pink candle-like flower spikes in late spring. In autumn it produces conkers. This tree is mainly planted for its ornamental value with spectacular flowers and pretty spring leaves, but the seeds (conkers) may have medicinal uses.



Sweet chestnut - *Castanea sativa*

The sweet chestnut is a deciduous tree native of Southern Europe. It is a large, long lived tree with large lance-shaped, serrated green leaves that turn golden in autumn. The flowers produced in spring are tassel-like and green and are followed by the spikey seeds that are produced in autumn. Chestnuts were an important source of food in the past and were widely cultivated and coppiced for their nuts and timber that was used in building, fencing, furniture-making and charcoal making.



Elm - *Ulmus LUTECE*

This is a cultivar of the native elm, developed in the Netherlands specifically for resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. It is a large tree with a vase-shaped crown. The oval serrated, green leaves are late to emerge in May and turn yellow in autumn. Tolerant to a wide range of conditions but prefers moist, well drained soils. It also tolerates urban pollution as well as coastal locations. This elm is an excellent host for the rare UK native White-letter Hairstreak butterfly (*Satyrrium w-album*). Numbers of the butterfly declined dramatically in the late 1960s, after the first outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease.



Large-leaved lime - *Tilia platyphyllos*

The large, leafed lime is a large deciduous native species tree that has mid-green, heart-shaped leaves and fragrant yellow green flowers in early summer. The tree is important for wildlife - from aphids to the birds that feed on them and the flowers are a source of food for bees and other insects. The flowers have medicinal properties and are often made into a tea. The wood is a light hardwood that does not tend to warp and is still used in furniture making and piano making. The Lime has many folklore associations in Britain and Europe.



Beech – *Fagus sylvatica*

The beech is a large and elegant native deciduous tree. It has distinctive smooth grey bark and small bright green leaves that turn to copper and gold in the autumn. The flowers are small and insignificant but the nut or 'beechmast' are an important source of food for many animals. The beech tree is an important timber tree used to make furniture. It is also a tree that is associated in European folklore and is commonly known as Queen of the Forest. Beech twigs are also commonly used for divining and its leaves are thought to have medicinal properties.