

We're interested in the reasons you have taken part in our Free Tree Scheme – please get in touch and tell us why trees matter to you:

[rosliston@southderbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:rosliston@southderbyshire.gov.uk)

Your new trees are two years old and approximately 30-50cm high. Treat them gently, as rough handling or being dropped can shock the roots, and it will take the trees longer to get established.

When you get your trees home, store them somewhere cool, outside. Do not let the roots dry out, so keep them covered. They should be planted within a couple of weeks of receiving them. If you need to store them for longer then give them a temporary home in a pot and remember to transplant them during the dormant season (Dec to March).

If you have a small garden or patio you can put each in a large pot permanently. The size of the pot will determine how big the tree gets, as once the roots have filled the pot the tree will stop growing. If you put your pot over soil, the roots will grow down through holes at the bottom of the pot into the ground so do be careful!

### **General planting advice:**

- If planting directly into the ground, check distance from your own and your neighbour's property
- Make sure your hole is big enough for all the roots to fit in comfortably
- Once planted, press the soil down firmly around the stem, making sure the roots are fully covered but that all of the stem is above the soil level
- If the soil is dry, water the tree when you have planted it.

### **For the first couple of years:**

- Weed carefully around the base of the tree
- Water the tree during long spells of warm dry weather

### **Safe Planting distances (or put the tree in a large pot!)**

Remember your neighbour's property too, when you plant!

Safe planting distances depend on the depth of your foundations and the type of soil. Shallow foundations eg for conservatories and clay soil require the greatest minimum planting distance, making sure the tree is as far from a building as it will eventually grow in height.

If your foundations are deeper than 1m, or if you intend to prune the tree to restrict its height, you can plant closer to buildings than the recommended minimum distances.

### **Recommended minimum planting distance from buildings:**

Cherry Plum: 6-8 metres from buildings

Downy Birch: 10 metres from buildings

Goat Willow: 3-5 metres from buildings

Guelder Rose: 3-5 metres from buildings

**OR as close as you want if you plant them in a large pot on a paved area!**

**Source for information and images:** Cheviot Trees, Woodgrow Horticulture Limited, the Woodland Trust and other advisory websites

**We'd love to know how you get on with your trees!**

**X: @roslistonenvd**

**Facebook: Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre**

**Instagram: @Environmentaleducationproject**

**LinkedIn: Environmental Education Project South Derbyshire**

## Information about this year's trees:

### **CHERRY PLUM *Prunus cerasifera***



The cherry plum is one of the first trees to flower, in mid-February. The beautiful white flowers can last for up to 4 weeks. Fruits are smaller than domestic plums and can be shades of yellow or red, reaching maturity from mid-June to mid-September. Wait til the plums are loose on the twig and feel slightly soft before you try them. They can be eaten straight from the tree or cooked – they are excellent for jam making. Cherry plum produces root suckers so may become a ‘thicket’ of trees rather than a single tree (like lilac or blackthorn). It can grow to 8m high.

### **DOWNY BIRCH *Betula pubescens***



Downy Birch is closely related to silver birch, although its trunk is less silvery and its twigs are softer, and covered with fine hairs. It is fast growing and will tolerate very poor soil. It will need pruning regularly if you have a small garden as it can grow to 30m high.

It is a beautiful, graceful tree, with heart shaped leaves which whisper in the breeze and turn yellow in autumn. It has catkins in spring. It supports around 300 species of insect, including the caterpillars of many moths – which in turn will support the bird populations nearby.

### **GOAT WILLOW *Salix caprea***



Goat willow is one of the smallest trees in the willow family, reaching up to 10m. Goat willow has pollen-yellow, then grey “pussy willow” (male) and spikey green catkins (female) in spring. It can grow in any soil but tolerates shade and damp really well.

It provides a dense safe place for birds and supports multiple insect species which will add wildlife interest to your garden. One such insect is the Purple Emperor butterfly. We have chosen Goat Willow this year because for the first time since records began, the Purple Emperor has been spotted in Derbyshire (Bretby & Aston on Trent) by Butterfly Conservation volunteers.

### **GUELDER ROSE *Viburnum opulus***



A small deciduous tree that will grow to around 4m high and is very suitable for small gardens, needing minimal management and providing interest, colour and value to wildlife for most of the year. It is not related to roses.

It has clusters of white, scented flowers in May/ June.

In autumn the foliage turns an attractive pinkish yellowy red and the branches are covered in clusters of bright red berries. These are an important food source for birds like thrushes and bullfinches. Raw berries are slightly toxic, causing upset stomach.