

**TREES NATIVE\* TO NORTHERN IRELAND** \*According to Wyse-Jackson

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	GOOD FOR:		SOIL
		Small Garden	Coppice	
Common Alder	Alnus glutinosa	Yes	Yes	Most
Silver Birch	Betula pendula	Yes	Yes	Not Alkaline
Downy Birch	Betula pubescens	Yes	Yes	Not Alkaline
Hazel	Corylus avellana	Yes	Yes	Not Acid
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	Yes	No	Most
Spindle Tree	Euonymus europaeus	Yes	Yes	Not Acid/Wet
Ash	Fraxinus excelsior	No	Yes	Not Acid
Holly	Ilex aquifolium	Yes	Yes	Most
Juniper	Juniperis communis	Yes	No	Not Damp
Crab Apple	Malus sylvestris	Yes	Yes	Not Damp
Aspen	Populus tremula	Yes	Yes	Most
Wild Cherry	Prunus avium	Yes	No	Most
Bird Cherry	Prunus padus	Yes	No	Most
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa	Yes	Yes	Most
Sessile Oak	Quercus petraea	No	Yes	Most
Sally Willow	Salix atrocinerea	Yes	Yes	Not Well drained
Eared Willow	Salix aurita	Yes	Yes	Not Well drained
Goat Willow	Salix caprea	Yes	Yes	Most
Elder	Sambucus nigra	Yes	Yes	Not Acid
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia	Yes	Yes	Not Damp
Irish Whitebeam	Sorbus hibernica	Yes	No	Not Damp
Yew	Taxus baccata	Yes	No	Not Damp
Wych Elm	Ulmus glabra	No	Yes	Not Acid



HAWTHORN



JUNIPER

**USEFUL ADDRESSES**

COUNCIL FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND COUNTRYSIDE  
Waterman House  
5-33 Hill Street  
Belfast BT1 2LA  
Tel: (028) 9054 3076

INTERNATIONAL TREE FOUNDATION  
20 Birchwood, Omagh  
Co Tyrone, BT79 7RA  
Tel: (028) 8224 6660

CONSERVATION VOUNTEERS (NI)  
159 Ravenhill Road  
Belfast BT6 0BP Tel: (028) 9064 5169

Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote the natural and built environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Klondyke Building  
Cromac Avenue  
Gasworks Business Park  
Belfast BT7 2JA  
T. 0845 302 0008

[www.ni-environment.gov.uk](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk)

**WILDLIFE GARDENING**

(2009)  
WG 008

**WHY CREATE A MINI-WOODLAND?**

A mini-woodland, whether it consists of two or three trees or a whole clump of mature specimens, adds an important new habitat to a wildlife garden. Trees act as nesting sites, song perches and display sites for birds. Numerous species of insects are totally dependant on trees and are themselves an important part of the food chain. Having trees in the garden means that you have areas of shelter and shade and this means that you can plant various wildflowers that are typically found in woodlands, such as Bluebells, Primroses, Wild Garlic or Wood Anemone. Large mature trees might even attract Red Squirrels, Badgers or Owls.

**WHY PLANT NATIVE TREES?**

Our native trees and insects have evolved over the centuries alongside each other and many insects have become very specialised, living only on one particular type of tree. Man has introduced many types of tree to Ireland, sometimes for commercial reasons, sometimes for fashion. Examples are Beech, Sycamore, Larch, Lawson Cypress, Eucalyptus and Sitka Spruce. As these trees have not been here for thousands of years, Irish insects are not used to them and usually only the more common opportunist species of insect will be able to use them. These exotic trees thus tend to support fewer different types of insects and are not as valuable to Irish wildlife as native trees. For a list of trees and shrubs native to Northern Ireland, see the list on the next page. Often it is not easy to buy native trees in garden centres as their trees often come from the Netherlands and so are not technically native. Do ask where the trees come from.

**THE RIGHT TREE FOR THE RIGHT GARDEN**

It is very important to plant the right tree as the wrong tree in the wrong place can cause problems. A tree must not be too big for a small garden. Some trees can be coppiced which means that every so many years, they can have their top lopped off and they will still grow healthily. This means that they are manageable and are particularly suitable for small gardens. It is also not a good idea to plant a Cherry tree too near the house as its extensive root system can damage the foundations of the house. The tree list on the next page shows which trees can be coppiced and which trees are only better in large gardens.

**LOGPILES**

A logpile can either be incorporated into a mini-woodland or put in a wildlife garden as a feature in its own right. A mini-woodland would be its most natural setting as any natural woodland will have dead wood lying around. However, the deadwood habitat is so important to many small animals and insects that it is worth having even if you don't have room for a mini-woodland.



NATIVE LEAVES



WOOD ANEMONE



BLUE BELL

A logpile is simply a pile of logs, but that does not mean twigs and small branches. These are too small and have little value in a logpile. It is large pieces of wood that are needed as these slowly rot and become a home for Hoverfly and Beetle Larvae, Centipedes, Millipedes, spiders and fungi. If the pile is not disturbed, it can also become a place of shelter for larger animals like Hedgehogs. It also needs also to be in a quiet shady corner as the wood will lose its value if it is in the sun and dries out.

**COPPICING:  
MANAGING YOUR MINI-WOODLAND**

Coppicing is one method of keeping trees in control in a small garden. It used to be widely practised in the countryside when wood was needed for stakes. The tree is cut with a slanting cut so that water cannot collect on the remaining stump which will quickly resprout. It will tend to produce several shoots instead of one, but this can be a nice feature. If this is done in the garden for the purposes of keeping the tree from growing too large, it would not have to be repeated every year. You may also want to cut the tree not at the base, but higher up. This work can be dangerous and should only be carried out using proper tools.

**FLOWERS TO PLANT IN A MINI-WOODLAND**

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	COLOUR
Bugle	Ajuga reptans	Blue/Purple
Wild Garlic/Ramsons	Allium ursinum	White
Wood Anemone	Anemone nemorosa	White
Lords and Ladies	Arum maculatum	White
Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea	Purple/Pink/White
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Blue/Purple
Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum	Pink
Water Avens	Geum rivale	Red
Herb Bennet	Geum urbanum	Yellow
Perforate St. John's Wort	Hypericum perforatum	Yellow
Wood Sorrel	Oxalis acetosella	White
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Yellow
Lesser Celandine	Ranunculus ficaria	Yellow
Greater Stitchwort	Stellaria holostea	White
Sweet Violet	Viola odorata	Purple
Common Dog Violet	Viola riviniana	Purple

To create the "feel" of a woodland, even with only two or three trees, you need to plant some woodland flowers. The plant list shows some typical woodland flowers that will grow in shady conditions. These flowers can be bought in garden centres or as seed bulbs from recognised seed stockists. Do not pick these flowers from the wild.

Do not tidy up too much under your trees. Woodlands are usually wild places, so let the leaves lie. However, keep grass under control. If your woodland is larger than a few trees, it is worth giving some thought to the woodland edge effect. More insects are found at the sunny woodland edge than deep within the wood, so try to create a mini-woodland with as much edge as possible, i.e. create a linear woodland rather than a thick circular clump. The edge that faces south will be warmer and richer in insect life and hence bird life, than the edge facing north.



LOG PILE



CELANDINE



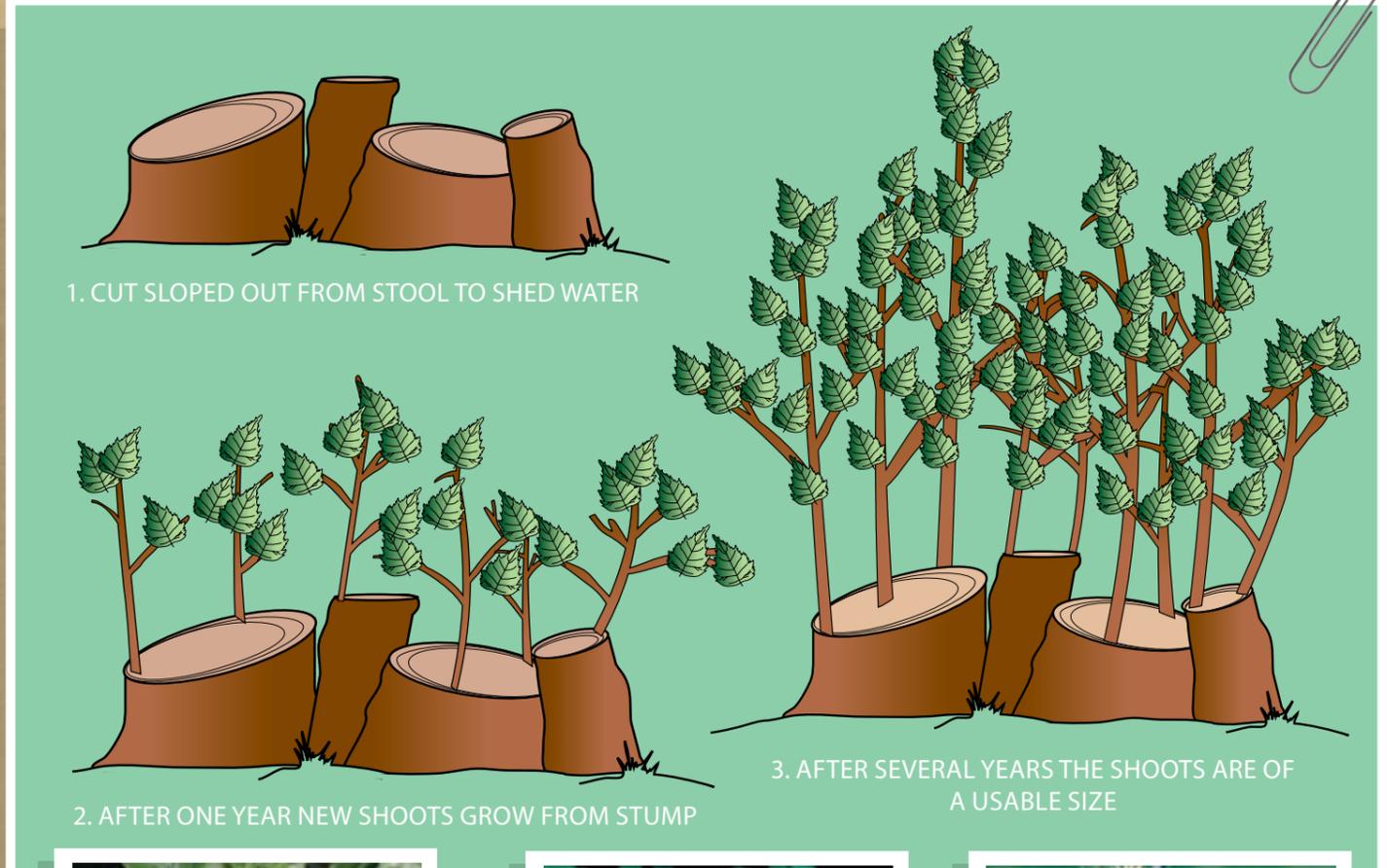
DOG-VIOLET

**TREE PLANTING**

The important things to remember are that tree planting should only be done between November and March, but not when the ground is frozen or waterlogged, the tree should be planted at the same depth that it was planted in the nursery and that the roots should never be left above ground. It is also a good idea to first put a good amount of well-rotted compost in the hole before planting to give the tree a healthy start and then to give the tree plenty of water immediately after planting. In a garden, you should not need tree guards unless there is likely to be damage from rabbits. You can also mulch around the tree to keep grass growth down around it.

**FOR FURTHER READING**

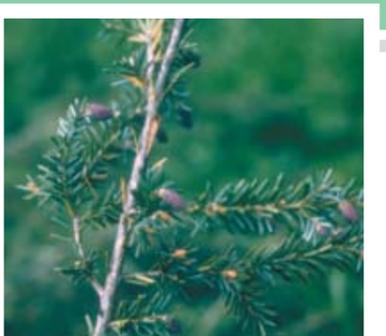
**Creating A Wildlife Garden** – Bob and Liz Gibbons. 1992. Hamlyn.  
**How To Make A Wildlife Garden** – Chris Baines. 1985. Elm Tree Books.  
**Wildlife Gardening** – Fran Hill. 1988. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.  
**The National Trust Book Of Wildflower Gardening** – John Stevens. 1987. Dorling Kindersley.  
**Gardening for Wildlife.** Ulster Wildlife Trust. 1991.  
**Irish Trees and Shrubs.** - Peter Wyse-Jackson. 1993. Appletree Guide.  
**Trees in the Garden.** CNCC.  
**Trees on the Farm.** DOE(NI), Tree Committee, DANI. HMSO.



OAK



ROWAN



YEW