

NATIVE TREE SEED GATHERING

Key points



Where to collect

Ancient woodlands, nature reserves, old hedgerows, orchards, parks or arboretums

Choose local sites to ensure trees will thrive in their final location

Always ask for landowner's permission before collecting any seeds, this may include charities or bodies like National Trust, Devon Wildlife Trust or Woodland Trust

When to collect

Collect seeds when ripe but bear in mind that wildlife is also on the hunt for food

Most native tree seeds in the UK ripen up in the Autumn, but different species will be available at different times during the season

***Visiting the site prior to collecting and researching** when different seeds are available will help you plan where and when is best to collect to find what you are looking for

NATIVE TREE SEED GATHERING

Key points

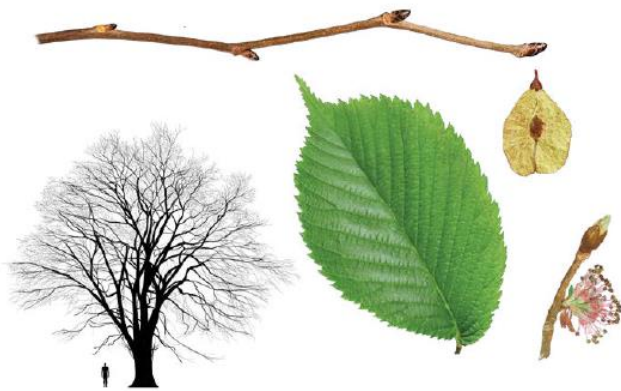


How to collect – best practice

1. **Bring your Tree ID Guide** to make sure you are collecting the right species and can identify healthy specimens
2. **Avoid trees that look diseased**, i.e., trees that have stained or falling bark, the appearance of 'bleeding', large areas of dead branches, a patchy crown, withered or unusual coloured leaves
3. **Collect seeds from as many trees as possible** to increase genetic diversity and not exhaust seed source
4. **Do not collect all seeds from a single tree** to not exhaust seed source and deprive wildlife from their food source
5. **Collect seeds by hand directly from the tree or from the ground**
6. **Take care or wear gloves** when collecting from spiny/thorny species, i.e. Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Dog Rose
7. **Place your seeds** in buckets or paper bags (ideally) and try not to mix different species
8. **Label your seeds** (species, site, year) before storing to avoid mixing of different batches
9. **Record what species** you have collected, **where from** (site name and Grid Reference) and **when** (year)

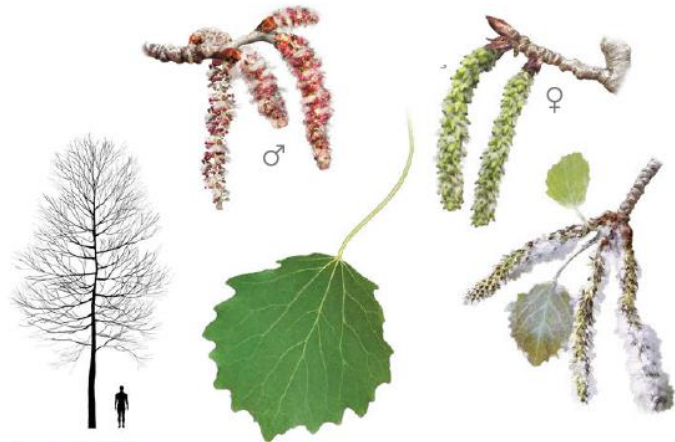
NATIVE TREE SEED GATHERING

May/June/July



WYCH ELM

Ulmus glabra



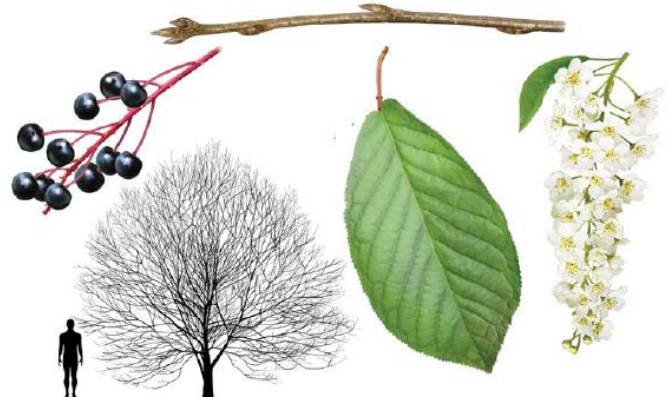
ASPEN

Populus tremula



WILD CHERRY

Prunus avium



BIRD CHERRY

Prunus padus



GREY WILLOW

Salix cinerea



GOAT WILLOW

Salix caprea

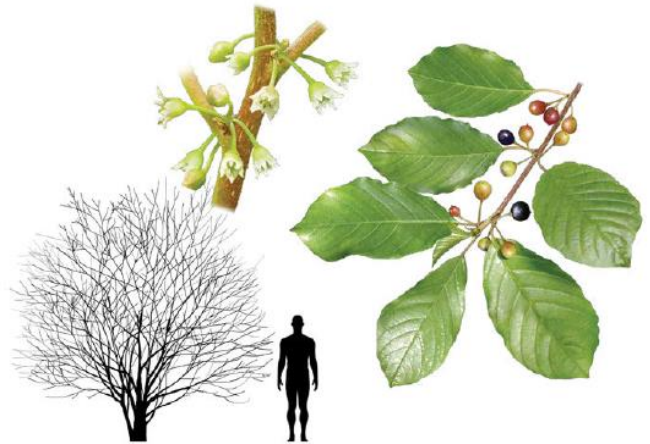
NATIVE TREE SEED GATHERING

August/September



ROWAN

Sorbus aucuparia



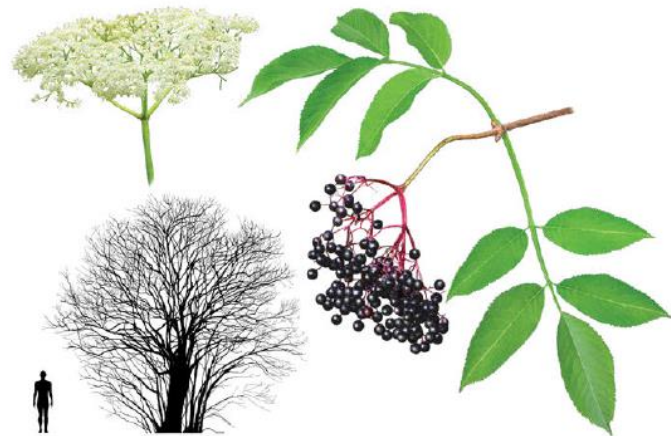
ALDER BUCKTHORN

Frangula alnus



HAZEL

Corylus avellana



ELDER

Sambucus nigra



SILVER BIRCH

Betula pendula

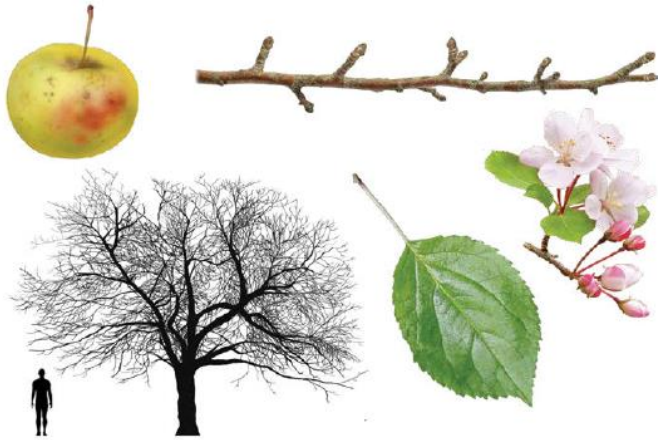


HORNBEAM

Carpinus betulus

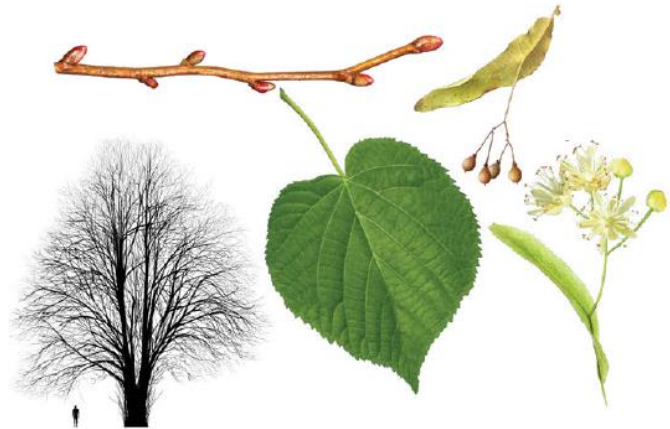
NATIVE TREE SEED GATHERING

September/October



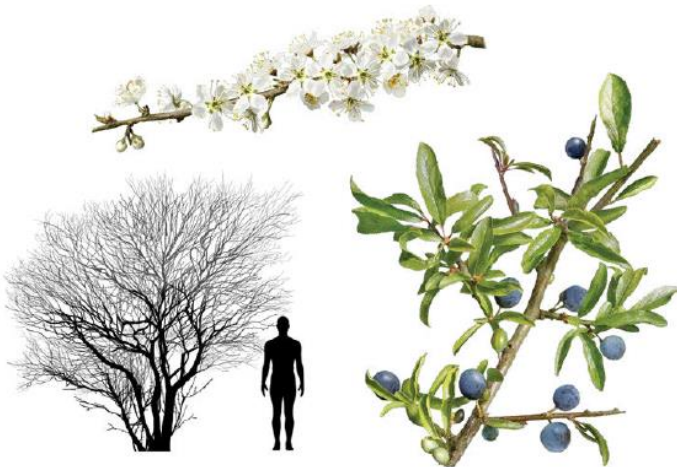
CRAB APPLE

Malus sylvestris



SMALL-LEAVED LIME

Tilia cordata



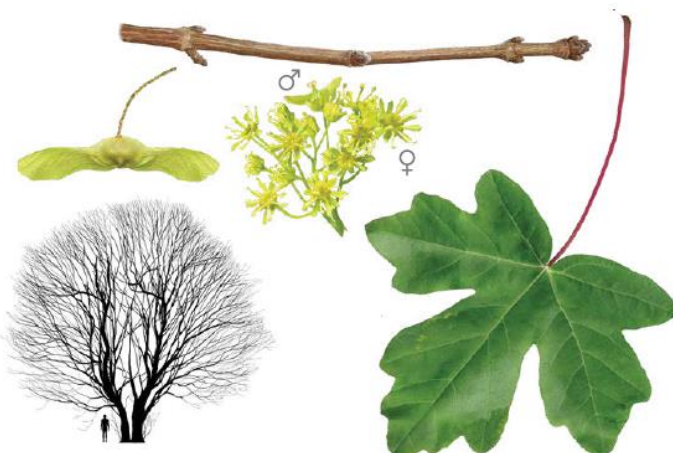
BLACKTHORN

Prunus spinosa



HAWTHORN

Crataegus monogyna



FIELD MAPLE

Acer campestre

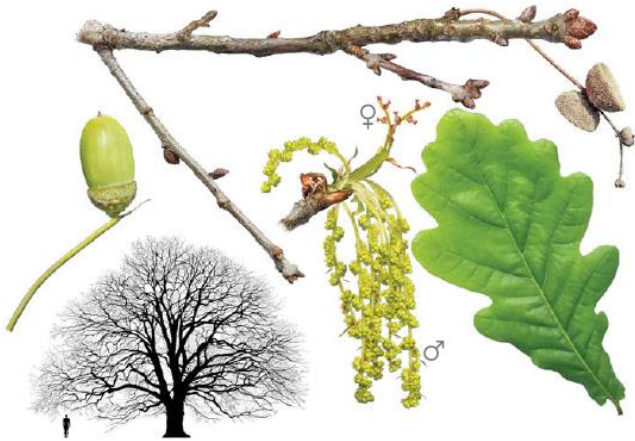


BEECH

Fagus sylvatica

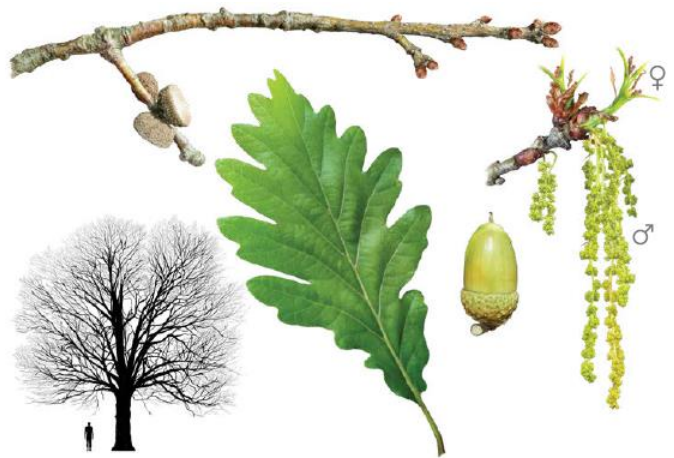
NATIVE TREE SEED GATHERING

October/November



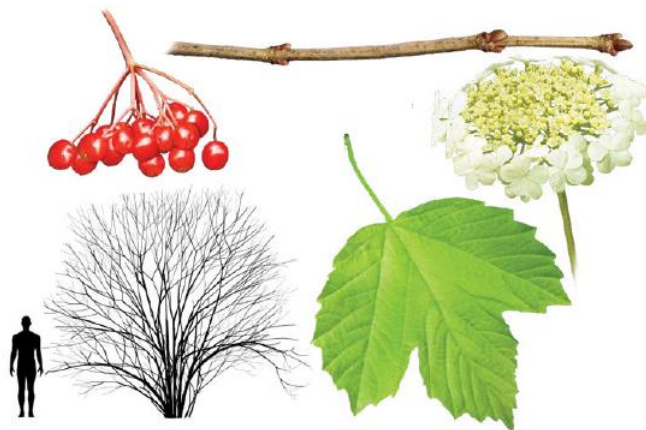
ENGLISH OAK

Quercus robur



SESSILE OAK

Quercus petraea



GUELDER ROSE

Viburnum opulus



EUROPEAN SPINDLE

Euonymus europaeus



COMMON ALDER

Alnus glutinosa



HOLLY

Ilex aquifolium

NATIVE TREE SEED GATHERING

Less common/rare species



WAYFARING TREE

Viburnum lantana



WILD PRIVET

Ligustrum vulgare



WHITEBEAM

Sorbus aria



WILD SERVICE TREE

Sorbus torminalis

SEED AVAILABILITY

Species	Collect when	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Goat Willow	Seed pods open								
Grey Willow	Seed pods open								
Wych Elm	Seeds turn pinkish/brown								
Aspen	Seed pods open								
Wild Cherry	Fruit turns red								
Bird Cherry	Fruit turns black								
Rowan	Fruist turns orange-red								
Hazel	Husks turn brown								
Alder Buckthorn	Fruit turns blue and soft								
Elder	Fruit turns blue/back and soft								
Birch	Bracts turn brown								
Hornbeam	Samaras turn yellow/brown								
White Beam	Fruit turns red/brown								
Beech	Seeds begin to fall								
Blackthorn	Fruit turns blue/black								
Field Maple	Seed turns pinkish brown								
Wild Privet	Seeds turn black								
Wild Service Tree	Fruit turns brown								
Small Leaved Lime	Bracts turn brown								
Wayfaring Tree	Ripe seeds are black								
Hawthorn	Fruit turns dark red								
Crab Apple	Fruit turns yellow								
English/Sessile Oak	Nuts get to full size and begin to fall								
Guelder Rose	Fruit turns dark red and soft								
European Spindle	Seed turns bright pink								
Common Alder	Cones start to open								
Holly	Fruit turns red								