

Planting & Aftercare of Trees



Belfast Hills
Partnership

Belfast
One Million
Trees

Types of Tree

These native tree species are suitable for gardens and urban spaces. Others such as Hazel, Wild Cherry & Elder, among others, may also be suitable depending on the space.

Rowan



Medium sized, growing to 15-20m. Can tolerate shade while a sapling but needs open light as it grows. Grows best in drier soils. Spring blossom is great for pollinators & autumn berries are important for birds

Crab Apple



Small to medium tree, up to 10m. Can grow well in shaded areas & prefers drier soil. Great for pollinators and the winter fruit is a great food source for animals such as badgers

Silver Birch



Larger tree, growing to 25m+ but with a light open canopy. Prefers to grow in more damp ground rather than drier soils. Important for fungi & lichen

How to Plant Your Tree

Your tree will need planted within a few days before the roots dry out. Consider where roots will grow, how branches could cast shade, & proximity to trees/buildings/overhead wires. Check the ground is suitable, not too dry/wet & there are no underground services which could be affected. Once you've chosen a suitable spot, it's time to plant!

Push your spade as far into the ground as you can. Move it back and forth to create a slit in the ground.



Take your spade out and place all your tree's roots into the slit. Make sure that none are sitting out above ground.

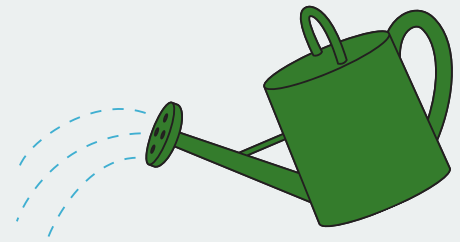
Take your foot & stamp around the base until the slit is fully closed. If it's left open at all, roots will be at risk of drying out or from frost damage over winter.



Looking After Your Tree

Once you've planted your tree, there are a few things you can do to ensure that it has the best chance to establish & thrive.

Water your tree after planting & then during any prolonged dry spells during the spring/summer months



Weed a metre circle around the base of your tree to reduce competition with grass for water & nutrients. Try and do this regularly during growing season for the first 2-3 years



Don't mow or strim too close to your tree as it could die if the bark is damaged



Why Plant Trees?

- ✓ To reduce carbon and tackle climate change
- ✓ To improve & support biodiversity
- ✓ To mitigate flooding across the city
- ✓ To provide shade and urban cooling
- ✓ To provide privacy & shelter
- ✓ To improve soil health & structure
- ✓ To improve air quality
- ✓ To improve physical & mental health & wellbeing

One Million Trees

Belfast City Council's One Million Trees project is a major programme to support climate adaptation across the city and aims to plant one million native trees across Belfast by 2035. Belfast City Council is working with partners such as Woodland Trust, Belfast Hills Partnership and The Conservation Volunteers, among others, to achieve this.

For more information please follow the relevant links below:

For further advice on tree planting, as well as aftercare & maintenance

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/

Belfast Hills Partnership Woodland Officer:
woodland@belfasthills.org 02890603466

<https://belfasthills.org/projects/woodland-project/>



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