

Choosing the right species of native tree and shrub

As mentioned, choosing the right species of tree and shrub is very important in urban areas where there are restrictions on space. Where possible, always use native species. Below is a list of the trees and shrubs native to Ireland, and advice on the locations to which they are suited.

Common name	Latin name	Height (max)	Suitable for public open spaces	Suitable for streets and confined spaces	Suitable for tubs, containers, raised beds etc.	Guide to planting: see key below
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	22m	Yes	No	Yes	ADPS
Alder buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	6m	Yes	No	Yes	D
Arbutus (strawberry tree)	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>		Yes	No	Yes	
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	28m	Yes	Yes	No	ADIPS
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	24m	Yes	No	No	DPSV
Bird cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	14m	Yes	Yes	Yes	P
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>					C/H
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	2m				
Burnet rose	<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>					C/H
Common (or European) gorse	<i>Ulex europeus</i>	2.5m				HV
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	6m	Yes	No	No	AHIP
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>					C/H
Downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	18m	Yes	Yes	Yes	ADIP
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	6m				V
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	4.5m				DH

Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	9m				AHIPS
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	6m				AHS
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	15m	Yes	No	Yes	AHPS
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>					C
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>					C
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	6m	Yes	No	No	
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	30m	Yes	No	No	AI
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	3m				No
Purging buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	4.5m				AHPV
Rowan or mountain ash	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	9m	Yes	Yes	Yes	ADHIP
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	24m	Yes	No	No	AI
Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	30m	Yes	No	No	AI
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	18m	Yes	Yes	Yes	ADIP
Sloe, blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	3m				AHPV
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	7.5m				H
Western (or mountain) gorse	<i>Ulex gallii</i>					
Whitebeam spp.	<i>Sorbus aria/S. anglica/S. devoniensis/S.hibernica/S. latifolia/S. rupicola</i>	12m	Yes	Yes	Yes	IPS
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	15m	Yes	Yes	Yes	AHI

Willow spp.	<i>Salix spp.</i>	6m				V
Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabr</i>	30m	Yes		No	PS
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	14m	Yes	No	Yes	AIPS

- A – Grows in a wide variety of soils
- C – Climber
- H – Suitable for hedging
- I – Suitable as an individual tree
- D – Tolerates or prefers damp conditions
- P – Tolerates smoke or pollution
- S – Tolerates shade
- V – Invasive