

9

PLANTS: TREES AND SHRUBS

Plant native trees and shrubs



Plant native tree and shrub species. Replace some non-native conifers and other non-native trees and shrubs with native species where appropriate to do so. This helps to increase overall biodiversity.

Suitability	Low, medium and high density housing if sufficient space is available.
Management type	Tree and shrub management.
Supplier information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers. • Potentially could get free trees from the Woodland Trust http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/frequently-asked-questions.
Community engagement?	Yes – potential to involve residents in helping to plant tree saplings in suitable locations on site.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves botanical diversity and increases invertebrate diversity. • Improves air quality, helps to cool air and reduces ‘urban heat island’ effect. • Flood attenuation. • Conifers are non-native trees with generally low diversity (but some species benefit from conifer planting so not all should be removed). Replacement with deciduous native tree species will increase overall biodiversity.
Costs/Disbenefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial cost: Low or potentially free (Woodland Trust) • Once mature, trees can cause structural damage to buildings, both at foundation level due to their roots, and through the falling of whole trees or branches. Ensure sufficient space for rootball expansion. • An increase in tree pollen may cause a greater allergies risk to residents – in order to reduce this risk, aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » plant a diverse mix of species, » avoid the mass use of male individuals of dioecious species, » choose species with low-moderate pollen production.
Level of ongoing maintenance	Medium.



9

PLANTS: TREES AND SHRUBS

Plant native trees and shrubs

		Notes
How achieved	<p>Planting with native tree species.</p> <p>Avoid double-flowered varieties as these often produce very little pollen and nectar.</p> <p>Gradual and selective removal of conifers (e.g. every other tree) by a qualified tree surgeon and replacement with native tree species.</p>	
Timing of activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting: between November and March. Avoid planting in very cold or windy weather to reduce the risk of damage to the roots before they become established. Never plant in soil that is frozen or waterlogged. Removal of conifers: between September and January: Do not cut trees during the bird nesting season (generally February to August). 	
Long-term management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly planted trees will require regular watering in dry spells for 3 to 5 years to ensure good root growth. If a guard is used this would need to be removed as soon as they split and before they start to disintegrate (usually after 5-10 years). Check tree ties and stakes to ensure they are secure and ties are not too tight - look for signs of rubbing as this can create a scar, which leaves the tree open to disease. Removal of conifers should be undertaken over a long period of time. Infill with native tree and shrub species. 	
Monitoring success	<p>General recording (see page 6).</p> <p>Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) counts can be conducted as part of the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring.</p>	