



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



THE  
**QUEEN'S GREEN  
CANOPY**

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

# Bedford Borough Big Tree Giveaway

*Frequently asked questions*



## How many trees can I get?

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Each resident is able to receive up to 5 trees and community groups, schools and business can receive up to 25.

## What trees are available?

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We are providing a mixture of 5000 mixed native broadleaf trees and shrubs ranging from mighty oaks down to the colourful dogwood. Please see our species guide for more details.

## Do I need to bring anything?

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Please bring a plastic bag to take your trees home in, you can use your next waste bag or reuse a shopping bag from a store. You need something that is going to prevent the trees from drying out until you are ready to plant it.

## Where can I plant?

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You can plant your trees on your private property or land managed by your community group. Please do not plant your trees on highway or park land. You can then log your trees on the Queens Green Canopy Map website to add your tree to the project.



## How much space do the trees need?

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Different species will require different amounts of space; to help you choose the trees you would like for your garden or outdoor space, please see our species guide. For hedgerows trees are ideally spaced 4 per metre and these can be staggered in two rows. If you are planning on planting a copse or small woodland trees at 2.5m spacing's will encourage good upright growth and a longer period till thinning in the future, for less maintenance increase the space.

## When to plant my tree?

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The trees supplied are bare root whips so need to be planted quickly, keep them in a plastic bag to prevent them from drying out and plant them within a couple of days of collection.

## How do I plant my tree?

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Make sure that any grass or weeds are cut short or even better remove a circle around your planting location. Push your spade into the ground then, push it forwards to create a slit. Make sure it's deep enough for the tree roots. Keep the slit open with your spade and place your tree inside making sure all the roots are below ground and the soil covers up to the root collar. Don't plant too deeply as this can damage your tree. Remove the spade and push the soil back around the tree. Then push your stake or cane in next to the tree and wrap your guard around.

## How do I care for my tree?

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You need to keep your tree free from weeds and other competition, you can do this by hand weeding around it or applying mulch to the area. Mulch will also help provide nutrients and improve the soil's water retention. Your trees should adapt to local growing conditions but you need to keep the soil moist in very dry conditions but can water more regularly, once a week for best results.

## Species Guide

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### Bird Cherry

A medium tree that provides a scented, showy display of clustered white flowers with nectar for insects in the spring and small dark fruits in the autumn for birds. Prefers well drained soils but thrives on many soils. Great for gardens.

Max Height: 12m. Approx. size after 25 years: 12m high x8m wide.

### Crab apple

Prefers moist, deep and fertile soils that are not too waterlogged. A small tree that provides great food and shelter for insects, birds and other wildlife. As well as floral displays and small fruit that you can make jelly from. Nice addition to a garden. Max height: 10m. Approx. size after 25 years: 6m high x 4m wide.

### English Oak

The national tree of England, famous for its majesty strength as well as supporting more life than any other native tree in the UK. Thriving on a wide range of soils this tree can become very large and live for a long time. Lobed dark green leaves and acorns will provide food for creatures all around. Best for areas where there is plenty of space. Max Height: 30m. Approx. size after 25 years 12m high x8m wide.

### Field maple

Medium sized tree that is suitable to coppicing or hedging, has good autumn and tolerates most soils, drought and air pollution. The UK's only native maple attracts many insects, birds and small mammals. Max Height 20m. Approx. size after 25 years 10m high x 7m wide.

### Wild cherry

The larger of the two native cherries provides fantastic white flowers in the spring and fruit in the autumn along with extraordinary colour. Often used as an ornamental feature it is one of the UK's prettiest trees. Thrives on alkaline soils but doesn't like water logged ground. Max Height 25m. Approx. size after 15 years 12m high x 7m wide.

## Wayfaring tree

A large shrub that prefers moist and well-drained soil. It provides seasonal interest for much of the year with large white flowers and bright red fruits that also support a wide range of wildlife. Makes a nice addition to your borders and requires little work. Max Height 4m.

## Hawthorn

Valued as a great hedging plant this small tree/large shrub has lots to offer to wildlife. One of the first trees in leaf it ushers in the spring with white flowers to follow. Watch out for thorns, it's not one to be trifled with. Will grow on a wide range of soils. Max Height 5m.

## Common Dogwood

Best in the winter the reddish stem make a nice addition to your garden but also provides spring flowers and autumn colour. Like many of the smaller trees and shrubs makes a great addition to hedging or year round interest in a border. Max Height 4m.

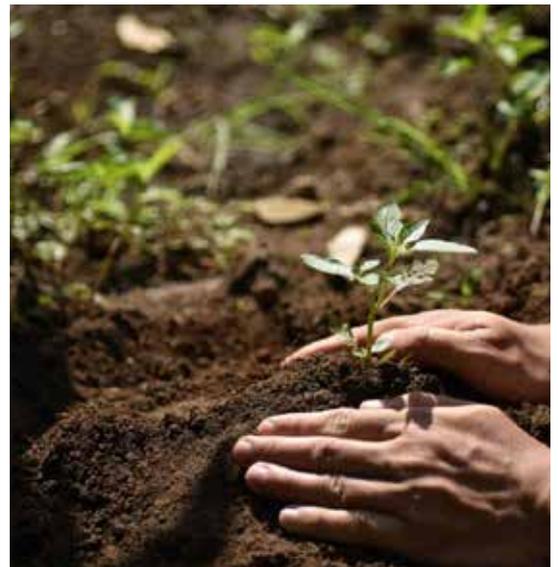


## Hazel

One of our most useful small trees/shrubs, hazels thrive in most soils and can be used for hedging, kept as a coppiced stool or let loose in your garden. Great for wildlife and lovers of nuts alike. Max Height 6m.

## Hornbeam

A superb native tree, similar to beech but more tolerant to climate change. Provides great habitat and food for wildlife. Thrives on most soils even unfavourable ones and can also be used as a hedging plant. Gnarled and tough, a great way to add character to your plot. Max Height 30. Approx. size after 25 years 10m high x 5m wide.



## Rowan

An upright small to medium tree famous for its white flowers, red fruit and great autumn colour. A favourite of birds and other wildlife and very common garden tree. Prefers acid soils but will take on alkaline along with a wide range of soil types. Perfect for gardens. Max height 12m. Approx. size after 25 years 6m high x 4m wide.

## Silver birch

The Silver Birch is also known as the ‘Lady of the Woods’ so called because of its slender and graceful appearance. A medium tree with a conical but semi weeping habit, the bark is white with horizontal lines and large diamond shaped cracks as the tree matures. Grows well in most soils but doesn’t tolerate salts. A little bit larger in size but still a garden favourite. Max Height 20m. Approx. size after 25 years 10m high x 6m wide.

## Small leaf lime

A large tree that encourages bees and grows on may fertile soils, one of our common trees in Bedford and very tolerant to pruning, heat, cold salt and whatever else you can throw at it. Great for avenues. Max height 20m. Approx. size after 25 years 10m high x 6m wide.

## Sweet chestnut

Not native but naturalised in the south of England after it was introduced in by the Romans, as a key tree in many woodlands and parks, it got snuck in to our giveaway. A large tree beloved for its nuts and famous for its twisting stems as it matures and great as a feature tree. Max Height 25m. Approx. size after 25 years 12m high x 6m wide.

## Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please telephone or write to us at our address below.

Për Informacion

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Informacja

برای اطلاع

Za Informacije

Per Informazione

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### Environment Services

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[www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)