



ASH (*Fraxinus excelsior*)



Ash is a very common tree in Britain. It grows on chalky, limestone and clay soils in ancient woodlands. It grows to a height of about 25 metres and lives to two hundred years or more. The black buds of the ash are very distinctive, and are opposite on the twig. The flowers appear in early spring long before the leaves. The leaves are made up of four pairs of leaflets, and appear in May. The seeds are called 'keys'.

Ash was used in the past for making horse drawn machinery and the spokes of wheels. It was also used for making tool handles, bar-hurdles and furniture. It makes good charcoal and firewood.

ENGLISH OAK (*Quercus robur*)



English oak is a very common tree in Britain and lives up to 1000 years or more. The largest oak in England has a trunk 12.5 metres in circumference.

It grows on well-drained soils and heavy clays, and is a tree found in ancient woodlands.

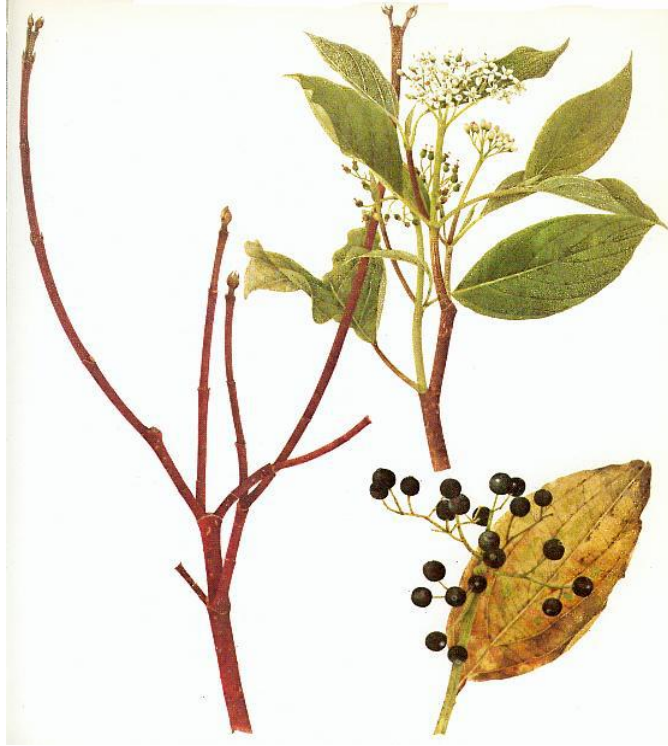
True English oak has no stalks on the leaves, and long stalks to the acorns.

English oak has lobed leaves that appear in May, and seeds called acorns ripening in October.

Oak timber is very strong, and was used in the construction of battle ships and fishing boats. The wood is also used for making buildings, furniture, farm machinery, gates and fencing. The bark was used for tanning leather.



DOGWOOD (*Cornus sanguinea*)



Dogwood is a common shrub on chalky and clay soils.

It can be found in ancient woodlands, and in hedgerows. It forms a bushy shrub, with blood red

twigs when young. The leaves are oval and deeply veined, and come out in March. They turn a rich

dark red in autumn.

The flowers are white in clusters, and the seed a green berry turning to glossy black when ripe. The berries are similar to those of wild privet, but the flesh is green, unlike the flesh of a privet berry which is purple.

Dogwood gets its name from 'dog'-a sharp spike used for making skewers.

SPINDLE (*Euonymus europaeus*)



Spindle is a shrub or small tree found on chalky and clay soils. It grows in hedgerows and ancient woodlands.

The twigs are green and square in shape and become rounded as the plant gets older. The buds are arranged opposite on the twigs.

The leaves are oval to lance-shaped, and in autumn they fade from green to yellow, and then to crimson.

The greenish white flowers are difficult to see and are produced in June.

The seeds are bright orange in a vivid pink seed pod.

Its name comes from its past use in the making of spindles for spinning wool by hand.



GUELDER ROSE (*Viburnum opulus*)



Guelder Rose is a small shrub up to 3 metres high. It is found on both chalky and acid soils in England, but is less common in Wales, Ireland and Scotland. It grows in hedgerows and along the edges of damp woodlands. The large white flowers come out in June and July. The flowers are followed by large clusters of deep scarlet berries.

Guelder Rose is not actually a rose at all despite its English name, and is a member of the Viburnum family.

It was first grown in Holland and the name guelder comes from Gueldersland, a Dutch province. The berries are used to flavour food in Norway and Sweden and to make a liqueur in Siberia.

WAYFARING TREE (*Viburnum lantana*)



Wayfaring tree is a small shrub up to 3 metres or more in height. It grows on chalky and clay soils in England. It is found in hedgerows, along woodland margins and among scrub.

The creamy white flowers are produced in May and June and have a strong scent. The berries are produced in August and September. They start off pink, then turn to red and finally black when ripe.

Wayfaring tree got its name from when travellers on foot or horseback saw the plant and named it 'Wayfarer's Tree'.



BLACKTHORN (*Prunus spinosa*)



Blackthorn, or sloe, is a very common shrub or small tree.

It grows in hedgerows and woodlands almost everywhere throughout Britain. It often forms dense thickets, and has sharp black thorns.

It grows on sandy, chalky and clay soils. Blackthorn has white flowers in February, which appear before the leaves.

In the autumn it produces purple-black fruits called 'sloes'. They are used to make sloe wine, sloe gin or sloe cheese.

The wood is used to make stakes and walking sticks, and was also used to make the traditional Irish shillelagh.



HAWTHORN (*Crataegus monogyna*)



Common hawthorn is a bushy shrub that grows in hedgerows. It grows everywhere in Britain, and is a

common on the chalk downs and in woods.

The frothy white flowers come out in May, and so hawthorn is often known as 'May'.

The small round fruit known as the 'haw' changes in early September from green to scarlet. There is one seed in each 'haw', unlike midland hawthorn which has two or more seeds in each.

Hawthorn does not produce timber but the wood was used extensively for making wood-engravers' blocks, mallet-heads and tool handles.

Hawthorn blossom and the haws can be used to make wine.



FIELD MAPLE (*Acer campestre*)



Field maple is common in Britain, and is a native tree.

It grows on chalk, limestone and boulder clay soils of southern England.

It forms a small tree up to 15 metres in the open or woodland, and is very common in hedgerows.

The leaves are quite small, and turn yellow and crimson in the autumn. The twigs are often corky and winged. The seeds or 'keys' are found in thick bunches and are green at first turning to brown when ripe.

Field maple produces a dense hard wood that is used for carving, and making bowls and plates.

CRAB APPLE (*Malus sylvestris*)



Crab apple is a common native tree of England, but is rare in the north. It is found in ancient woodlands.

It forms a bushy, dense tree with spreading branches in the open, but is taller and narrower when growing in woodland. Crab apple grows on sandy, chalky or clay soils.

The flowers come out in April and are pure white. The twigs are covered in thorns.

The small apples called 'pomes' are very sour. The apples are used to make 'crab apple jelly', a type of jam.

The wood is very hard and tough. It is used for making mallet heads and tool handles, and for carving. It is also used for making chess and draught games.



DOG ROSE (*Rosa canina*)

Dog rose is a very common plant in woodlands, scrub and hedgerows. It is found throughout Britain and grows on chalk, limestone and clay soils. It is a vigorous scrambling plant that often climbs up through trees and hedgerows.

Dog rose is also known as the 'wild rose', and has scented blooms in June and July. The bright scarlet 'hips' full of seed form in autumn. These hips contain large amounts of vitamin C, and other minerals.

When the hips are crushed it produces a liquid known as rose hip syrup. They are also used to make wines and jams.

The name 'dog rose' comes from 'dag rose', dag meaning a dagger referring to the large thorns.



FIELD ROSE (*Rosa arvensis*)

Field rose is less well known than the dog rose, but is also very common and widespread throughout Britain.

It is absent from Scotland. It is a vigorous scrambling shrub that grows in hedgerows and along woodland edges and rides.

It likes clay soils, but will also grow well on chalky or sandy soils. The stems are covered in very long

thorns, but are not as large or sharp as those of dog rose. The leaves all have seven leaflets. Field rose produces single scented white flowers in June and July, slightly later than the dog rose. The 'hips' are scarlet when ripe and are more rounded in shape and softer than the dog rose. These also contain large amounts of vitamin C and other minerals.





BUCKTHORN (*Rhamnus catharticus*)



Buckthorn is a native shrub of the British Isles and Europe. It grows on chalky, peat and clay soils in southern England, and in parts of northern England and Ireland.

Buckthorn forms a large bush or small tree, usually in ancient woodlands, and hedgerows. The creamy white flowers come out in May and June.

The fruits are black berries containing a single seed produced in autumn. The bark and berries of buckthorn have been used for centuries as a medicine. It is not used much for treating people nowadays, although it is still used for animals.

WILD PRIVET (*Ligustrum vulgare*)



Wild privet is a shrub found throughout the British Isles, but is rare in Wales and in the north of Scotland.

Wild privet is found on chalky and clay soils, often in hedgerows and along woodland edges. It forms dense thickets. The creamy white flowers are produced in June and July, and are pollinated by insects that are attracted to their strong smell.

The black berries form in dense clusters and these can be seen in October.