

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SOCIETY

www.wgcsoc.org.uk

Plant a Legacy Tree for the Centenary: a Guide for Homeowners

Why Plant a Tree?

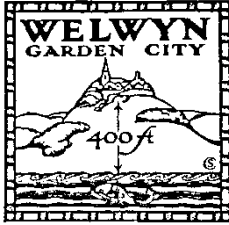
Worldwide we are losing more trees than are being planted. In urban areas there is a view that they are 'inconvenient'. This is partly because of poor selection as many have out-grown their original locations.

Tree benefits include:

- Visual display – particularly in a Garden City
- Ecological resource – encourages bees/ pollinators, birdlife etc.
- Carbon off-setting (one tonne for each tree planted: <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/plantingtrees.html>)

The Centenary of Welwyn Garden City gives an opportunity for homeowners to take stock and plant a tree or three. Planting can be a family event to mark the occasion. A new tree provides a lasting legacy and helps replenish the tree stock of the town.





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When is the Best Time to Plant a Tree?

Trees are best planted in their dormant phase from November to February.

How Do I Choose a Tree?

Selecting a tree will depend on personal/ property preferences as no tree can fulfil all requirements. Native trees are more robust [include Hawthorn, Oak, Hazel, Birch, Maple, Rowan, Blackthorn, Wild Cherry]. Exotic trees are nice, but more expensive and less robust. A sample selection table is overleaf and links are provided below for information:

The Royal Horticultural Society: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trees> (with pollinator section)

The Tree Council: https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/Portals/0/Tree%20planting%20guide%20-%202019%20updates_1.pdf

Tree selector site: <https://www.barcham.co.uk/products/>

Trees for birds are on RSPB: <https://www.rspb.org.uk> BTO: <https://www.bto.org>

Where Can I Obtain a Tree?

There are numerous outlets to buy trees from supermarkets/ DIY stores to specialist providers. Some provide a visiting experience (N.B. not an exhaustive list):

<http://www.digswell.org.uk/> [make contact to confirm stock]

<https://www.notcutts.co.uk/garden-centres/st-albans>

<https://www.aylettnurseries.co.uk/>

<https://www.vanhage.co.uk/garden-centres>

<https://www.vanstoneparkgardencentre.co.uk/>

<http://www.majestictrees.co.uk>

<https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/single-trees>

Semi adult trees obtainable from: <https://www.barcham.co.uk/> of Cambridgeshire

Alternatively look on Freecycle: <https://www.freecycle.org/> as it is a good place to receive and donate surplus trees. Many trees can also be planted from home-grown seeds.

Timescale:

The best tree planting time is the dormant season of December – February so there are two centenary opportunities in 2019 and 2020.

Links:

Local information:

Welwyn Horticultural Society: <http://www.wgchortsoc.org.uk/>

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council: <https://www.welhat.gov.uk/trees>

Nationwide information:

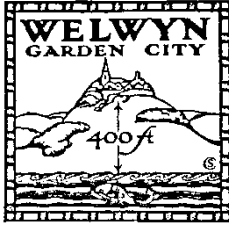
Previous links provided for The Tree Council and The Royal Horticultural Society

Carbon Offsetting Initiative: <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/plantingtrees.html> info@carbonfootprint.com

Enc. Simplified Tree Selector

Clive Wilson Welwyn Garden City Society December 2019

Website: http://welwynhatfield.co.uk/wgc_society/ email: wgcsociety@live.com



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Tree selection examples (simplified version – confirm actual selection on a tree selector website):

Category	Comment	Hawthorn	Silver Birch	Holly
Robustness:	Native to local soil & climate; drought resistance	*****	*****	*****
Size for Small Gardens:	Consider height/ spread/ density/ roots	*****	*****	*****
Speed of Growth:	Trade off against longevity	*****	****	****
Flowering Interest:	Floral display	*****	N/A	***
Pollen Provision:	Not all flowers help the bees	*****	***	****
Autumn/ Winter Interest:	Leaves/ bark/ evergreen	***	****	*****
Seed/ Berry Provision:	Visual and food for birds	*****	***	*****
Bird Nesting/ Sheltering	Birdlife harbour	*****	**	*****
Longevity	Trade off against speed of growth	***	****	****

