

Native trees to Scotland

Scots Pine

The most common conifer tree in the world, its natural range stretches half way round the world, from Scotland to Eastern Siberia. In Britain it's an important timber tree as it's only native conifer to grow tall enough to produce saw logs.

Lifespan – 500 years

Height – 36m

Rowan

Produces masses of bright red berries in autumn that are very attractive to birds such as redwings and fieldfares. It used to be planted near houses to keep witches away!

Lifespan – 120 years

Height – 15m

Aspen

One of the last trees to grow leaves in the spring, their long stalks allow the leaves to tremble in the slightest breeze.

Lifespan – 100 years

Height = 25 m

Silver Birch

An attractive tree, especially in autumn when their leaves turn golden yellow. Not as hardy as its cousin the Downy Birch, it prefer to grow in Lowland sites.

Lifespan – 120 years

Height – 30 m

Ash

A much sought after timber tree due to its flexibility and capacity to absorb shocks. Ash leaves don't grow until May, which gives other plants under a tree a chance to grow well, making ash a good choice for plants and wildlife.

Lifespan – 200 years

Height – 35 m

Yew

The oldest tree in Europe is the Fortingall Yew, which is growing in Glen Lyon in Scotland. It is said to be 5000 years old. Medieval

archers made their longbows out of yew as it's the best wood for making bows.

Lifespan – 5,000 years
Height - 29m

Hazel

A once-useful tree for providing household goods, hazel was coppiced (cut frequently) in the past to supply small poles. Tasty hazelnuts are produced in the autumn, which attract birds, squirrels and mice.

Lifespan – 70 years
Height – 10m

Hawthorn

Once used extensively for farm hedging, this prickly tree was the original woody barbed wire! Its twisted branches and red berries make it an ideal home for a lot of small birds.

Lifespan – 300 years
Height – 15 m

Holly

Instantly recognisable from its prickly evergreen leaves, most people are surprised to find out that holly is not a conifer – it's a broadleaf! Popular at Christmas, the red berries were once thought to ward off evil.

Other trees found in Scotland

Beech

Though not native to Scotland, this tree grows and seeds well as far north as Inverness. The seeds – or mast – have been eaten in the past and the French sometimes roast them to make a type of coffee.

Lifespan - 350 years
Height – 30 m

Whitebeam

A relative of the rowan, this tree gets its name from the dense white fur covering the underside of its leaves, combined with the Saxon word for the tree – beam. Like rowan, the red berries are excellent food for our birds.

