

Can you spot these Trees?

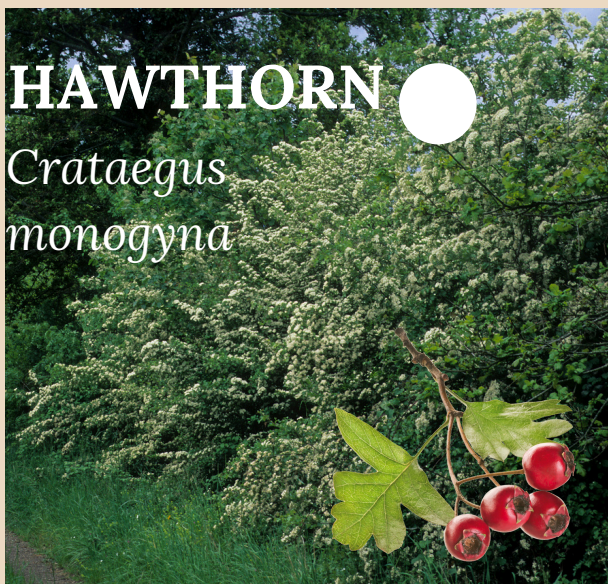


**GREY
WILLOW**
Salix cinerea

Leaves are oval, green, smooth and with a silver underside. The silhouette of willow is distinct, with many **flexible slim branches** and 'twiggy' look.

Grey willow looks **similar to Goat or 'pussy' willow**; Goat willow leaves are round and oval, Grey willow are longer than they are wide.

Leaves are food for many caterpillars. Catkins and flowers are important for **pollinators**. The 'furry' catkins appear in March-April.



HAWTHORN
*Crataegus
monogyna*

Leaves are very lobed and bright **green**. Twigs are brown and **smooth with thorns**.

Trunk is brown, gnarled and knotted, with ridges and fissures as the tree ages. The silhouette is dense and 'shrubby'

White-pink blossoms are scented and **flower in May**, attracting insects. Birds like to nest in hawthorn and it important in hedgerows



BLACKTHORN
Prunus spinosa

Another smaller tree up to 9m, blackthorn has spines and white blossoms in spring.

Leaves are dark green, oval and smooth edged. Twigs are hairless and brown-black.

Famous for '**sloes**' or **berries in autumn**, these are important food for birds.



SYCAMORE
Acer
pseudoplatinus

Leaves have **5 lobes** and undersides are hairy.

Young trees have red stems and bark is rough and brown grey.

Important **food source for pollinators**, caterpillars birds and insects.

Sycamore species are naturalised, introduced to the UK and Ireland it is thought as early as Roman times.



ELDER
Sambucus nigra

Leaves are serrated at the edge and oval in shape.

Bark is green brown and corky in texture. The leaves and stems have a pungent smell when crushed.

Blossoms appear in late spring/early June and form wide **umbels**.

Each flower has **5 petals**.

Berries are dark blue black in colour and loved by birds.



ASH
Fraxinus excelsior

Leaves are pinnate, arranged **in pairs** on the stem. Oval in shape and smooth edges.

Twigs are smooth and buds are distinctive, black and smooth.

Bark is pale grey. 'Helicopters' seeds or keys appear in autumn.

The **airy canopy** created by Ash allows many **ground plants to grow** such as violet. The leaves are **food source for many caterpillars**.



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta
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National Parks and Wildlife
Service



SILVER BIRCH ●
Betula pendula

Striking **silver white bark**, smooth and hairless. Develops **black diamond marks** as the trunk ages.

Great **source of food for birds** because **aphids** live on them.

Looks very similar to Downy birch; silver birch twigs are hairless and have tiny warts. **Downy birch** has **small hairs** on the twigs.



Quercus petraea
SESSILE OAK ●

The **National tree of Ireland**, it **supports** more insects (**over 250 species**) than any other tree.

Many birds nest and feed on oaks.

Leaves are lobed and undulate, wavy edge. Bark is brown and fissured.

Fertilised seeds become acorns in autumn.

The **acorns are attached directly to the twig**, but in English oak, they are on long stalks.



HAZEL ●
Corylus avellana

Leaves are heart shaped, **pointed at the tip and double toothed** at the edge.

Twigs are hairy and **leaves feel soft**, with hair underneath

Bark is grey brown and rough.

Hazelnuts grow from September-October and are **loved by birds, squirrels** and field or **wood mouse**.