

National Tree Week started in 1975 and is the UK's largest tree celebration. It takes place this year from Saturday 26th November to Sunday 4th December and marks the start of the winter tree planting season.

As part of our Tree Week celebrations, East Staffordshire Borough Council is working in partnership with North West Leicestershire District Council [Footprints - North West Leicestershire | Free Tree Scheme 2011](#), South Derbyshire District Council [South Derbyshire District Council](#) and the National Forest Company to offer free trees to residents in the National Forest. Planting trees in your garden helps to provide vital shelter, food and homes for wildlife as well as adding new interest to your garden.

We are able to offer two free tree whips to households in East Staffordshire as part of our free tree giveaway. The tree whips are all two years old (40 to 90cm high) and will be allocated to households on a first come, first served basis while stocks last. There are four different trees available; Alder Buckthorn, Bird Cherry, Common Spindle and Hazel. Each household can have either two of the same tree or two different trees (subject to availability).

Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)

A deciduous shrub that usually grows between 3m and 6m tall. It has greenish-white flowers in May/June and small black berries in the early autumn. It is the food plant of the Brimstone butterfly.

Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*)

This deciduous tree gets its name because birds love its bitter fruits so much. It has spikes of white flowers in spring followed by black fruits and usually grows to between 7m and 10m.

Common Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)

An attractive shrub which is particularly distinctive in winter when the bright pink berries hang off the leafless twigs. It has clusters of small yellow flowers in spring and the leaves turn bright red in the autumn. It usually grows to between 6m and 9m.

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)

A small, fast growing, native deciduous tree that will grow to around 6m. It has edible nuts in autumn and bright yellow catkins in February which provide essential early pollen for bees.

If your household would like two free trees then please let us have the details below and return it to us by 21st October to Free Tree Giveaway, The Greenhouse Centre, 38 Stapenhill Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE15 9AE.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email address:

Telephone number:

Please indicate which two trees you would like by ticking the boxes. If you would like two of the same tree then just tick one box.

Alder Buckthorn

Bird Cherry

Common Spindle

Hazel

If you have been successful in your application for free trees then you will be notified by 11th November. You will be invited to come and collect your free trees from the Greenhouse Centre in Burton upon Trent on Sunday 27th November between 10am and 12pm. You will be given a leaflet on how to plant and look after your new trees when you collect them.

On Sunday 27th November we will be celebrating National Tree Week with our annual tree giveaway and tree sale between 10am and 12pm. As well as giving free trees to those who have applied, we will also have a wide range of trees for sale with prices starting at just £1.00 and there will be staff available to give advice on choosing and planting trees in your garden. This year we have decided to go all festive and we will be giving any children that visit the event the chance to pot up their own mini Christmas tree (about 15cm tall), decorate it and take it home for free.

Did you know?

- Britain's oldest tree is probably the Fortingall Yew in Tayside, which is believed to be over 3000 years old.
- A fully-grown Oak in the UK grows - and sheds - 250,000 leaves every year and produces around 50,000 acorns in a good year.
- The world's tallest tree is a Coast Redwood in California at 360ft.
- The largest individual tree in the world is the Giant Redwood called the "General Sherman", which has a height of about 275 ft. a girth of 25 ft and a volume of 52,500 cubic feet.
- The world's oldest trees are Bristlecone pines in the USA, with confirmed ages up to 4600 years.
- A commercial size aspen trunk in Canada is made into about a million matchsticks.
- The height above sea-level at which trees cannot grow is called the treeline. This changes with latitude and in the Alps is approximately 7000ft, whilst in North Wales it is 1820ft.