



Durham Landscape Guidelines

Trees: Trees and Shrubs Native to County Durham

Species native to County Durham

The following common trees and shrubs are generally considered to be native to County Durham.

Ash	Holly	Small Leaved Lime
Birch, Downy	Honeysuckle	Spindle
Birch, Silver	Ivy	Spurge Laurel
Blackberry	Juniper	Wild Privet
Blackthorn	Oak, Common	Willow, Almond
Broom	Oak, Sessile	Willow, Bay
Cherry, Bird	Aspen	Willow, Crack
Cherry, Wild	Black Poplar	Willow, Creeping
Common Alder	Raspberry	Willow, Dark Leaved
Crab Apple	Rose, Burnet	Willow, Eared Sallow
Dogwood	Rose, Dog	Willow, Goat
Elder	Rose, Field	Willow, Grey
Field Maple	Rose, Hairy Dogrose	Willow, Osier
Gooseberry	Rose, Northern Dogrose	Willow, Purple
Gorse	Rose, Sherard's Downy	Willow, Tea Leaved
Guelder Rose	Rose, Soft Downy	Willow, White
Hawthorn	Rose, Sweet Briar	Wych Elm
Hazel	Rowan	Yew

Other woody species native to the county, including dwarf shrubs and very rare species, include:

Bearberry	Dewberry
Bell Heather	Dyers Greenweed
Bilberry	Gorse: Western
Bilberry: Bog	Heather
Birch: Dwarf	Rock Rose: Common
Bramble: Stone	Rose: Harsh downy
Cloudberry	Shrubby Cinquefoil
Cowberry	Whin: Petty
Cranberry	Whitebeam: Rock
Cross-leaved Heath	
Crowberry	
Currant: Downy	
Currant: Mountain	
Currant: Red	

COUNTY DURHAM LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES: TREES
SPECIES NATIVE TO COUNTY DURHAM

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

Status Native

Distribution Widespread

Habitats Woodlands, hedgerows, road verges, railway banks. An important component of many semi-natural woodlands in the county and particularly characteristic of those on base rich soils. The commonest hedgerow tree across much of Durham.

Requirements Will grow on a broad range of sites, although preferring neutral to alkaline soils. Tolerates some exposure. Light demanding. For timber production well drained fertile soils and sheltered sites are required.

Recommendations A useful forest tree capable of producing versatile good quality timber on better sites. Suitable for general planting throughout the county as a woodland and hedgerow tree, particularly on base rich soils.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are largely wild. Has been widely planted in the past as a timber and field tree but probably often with local plant material. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204. Where the production of quality timber is an aim use plants of FC certified stock.

Birch (Downy) *Betula pubescens*

Status *Native*

Distribution Widespread with a western emphasis. Particularly characteristic of the North Pennines and West Durham Coalfield.

Habitats Damp & waterlogged woodland, carr & scrub, watercourses, heathland, road verges, railway banks. A component of many semi-natural woodlands in the county in association with oak, particularly on wetter acidic soils.

Requirements Will grow on most soils. Tolerant of wet, exposed & infertile sites. Light demanding.

Recommendations A useful pioneer species on poorly drained or otherwise difficult sites producing strong and light but small dimension timber. Suitable as a woodland fringe and nurse species for general planting, particularly in the uplands and upland fringes.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are predominantly wild. Both pollen and seed carry considerable distances. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Notes Birch hybridises freely and so individual trees found in the field may be intermediate in type, or hybrids, between Downy Birch and Silver Birch.

Birch (Silver) *Betula pendula*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Woodland, heathland, scrub, road verges, railway banks. A component of many and light but small dimension timber. Suitable as a woodland fringe and nurse species for general planting semi-natural woodlands in the county in association with oak, particularly on drier & infertile acidic soils.

Requirements Will grow on most soils, tolerating both very acid and strongly alkaline conditions. Tolerant of dry, exposed & infertile sites. Light demanding.

Recommendations A useful pioneer species on difficult sites producing strong throughout the county.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are largely wild although commonly planted as an ornamental or landscaping tree in recent years. Both pollen and seed carry considerable distances. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Notes Birch hybridises freely and so individual trees found in the field may be intermediate in type, or hybrids, between Silver Birch and Downy Birch.

Blackthorn, Sloe *Prunus spinosa*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread but relatively sparse.

Habitats Deciduous woodland, scrub, hedgerows, road verges.

Requirements Will grow in most soils & situations. Light demanding.

Recommendations A fast growing small tree bearing flowers and fruit (sloes). Suitable for general planting as a woodland fringe species and as a hedgerow shrub.

Origins/provenance Blackthorn has been planted as a hedgerow species in the past but truly wild populations are also common. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Blackberry, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Woodland, hedgerows, scrub, heath, waste ground, quarries, railway lines, road verges.

Requirements Tolerates a wide range of conditions.

Recommendations A fast growing sprawling shrub bearing flowers and edible fruit. While it may be suitable for planting as a shrub in woodland margins & open glades, its vigour can be a problem in new planting. It can be expected to colonise suitable sites through natural colonisation.

Origins/provenance Bramble has not been widely planted in the past other than in the form of domestic fruit cultivars which interbreed and hybridise with wild species. Use plants of local or regional provenance. Avoid fruit cultivars.

Notes There are a number of *Rubus* species found in the county, both native and introduced, the most widespread and abundant being the Woodland Bramble (*R. dasyphyllus*) and the Hazel-leaved Bramble (*R. corylifolius*), the latter being more common on the Magnesian Limestone & coast. These species are not generally commercially available.

Broom (Whin) *Cytisus scoparius*

Status Native.

Distribution Common on the coal measures of the West Durham Coalfield and Wear Lowlands, sparse elsewhere. Absent above 300m AOD.

Habitats Heath, railway banks, road verges, waste ground, river banks.

Requirements Free draining acidic soils. Light demanding.

Recommendations An attractive flowering evergreen shrub, fast growing but short lived. Suitable as a woodland fringe & scrub species on free draining, infertile and acidic soils. Will colonise suitable sites naturally if local seed sources are available.

Origins/provenance The existing population is predominantly wild although occasionally planted as a landscaping shrub. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Cherry (Wild), Gean *Prunus avium*

Status Native.

Distribution Widely but sparsely distributed. Most common in the West Durham Coalfield, Wear Lowlands and Dales Fringe.

Habitats Broadleaved woodland, hedgerows, scrub, road verges.

Requirements Will grow on a range of heavier soils from moderately acidic to moderately calcareous. Light demanding.

Recommendations An attractive fast growing flowering tree capable of producing high quality timber on better sites. Suitable for general planting as a woodland fringe species.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are largely wild, though both it and its cultivars have been widely planted as an ornamental. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Cherry (Bird) *Prunus padus*

Status Native.

Distribution Frequent in the uplands and upland fringes - the North Pennines, West Durham Coalfield and Dales Fringe.

Habitats Broadleaved woodland, river & stream banks, rocky gorges.

Requirements Will grow on a wide range of damper soils. Light demanding.

Recommendations A small fast growing tree suitable for planting as an understorey and woodland fringe species on riparian & valley sites, particularly in the uplands and upland fringes.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zone 302.

Common Alder *Alnus glutinosa*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread; closely associated with wetlands, rivers and streams.

Habitats Watercourses, wet & waterlogged woodland & carr.

Requirements Will grow in most soils and situations, including waterlogged sites. Light demanding.

Recommendations A useful fast growing pioneer species on wet or infertile sites. Suitable as a woodland species on wetter ground, and as a nitrogen fixing nurse on infertile or reclaimed sites. Coppices well.

Origins/provenance The existing population is largely wild although commonly planted in land reclamation schemes. Use plants of local or regional provenance. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204. Source only from nurseries in northern catchments free from Phytopthera disease.

Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread but sparse.

Habitats Hedgerows and woodland margins (particularly older woods) as an individual tree or in small numbers.

Requirements Will grow on a range of soils preferring neutral to alkaline. Light demanding.

Recommendations An attractive small flowering & fruiting tree. Suitable as a hedgerow and woodland fringe species in small numbers.

Origins/provenance Crab apple has been widely planted in the past although probably on a relatively small scale using local plant material. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204 and avoid ornamental cultivars.

Notes See also Apple (*Malus domestica*)

Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*

Status Native & planted.

Distribution Thinly scattered distribution on limestone & base rich soils in the lower reaches of the major river valleys

Habitats Hedges and woodland margins.

Requirements Prefers well-drained calcareous or neutral soils.

Recommendations A species on the edge of its natural range in Durham and not particularly characteristic of the local flora. May be suitable as a hedgerow or woodland fringe species in small numbers in areas where it occurs naturally

Origins/provenance The existing population is predominantly wild, though it is also commonly planted as a garden & landscaping shrub. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204 and avoid ornamental cultivars.

Elder *Sambucus nigra*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Woodland, scrub, hedges, railway banks, road verges, waste ground.

Requirements Will grow in most situations but prefers fertile base rich soils. Shade tolerant.

Recommendations A fast growing shrub with conspicuous flowers and berries. May be suitable as an understorey or woodland fringe species on fertile soils. Not suitable as a shrub for stock hedges due to its open habit and competitive nature.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Dispersed widely in the droppings of birds. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204 and avoid ornamental cultivars.

Field Maple *Acer campestre*

Status Native.

Distribution Strong bias towards the south east of the county, scattered & rare elsewhere.

Habitats Hedgerows & woodland margins.

Requirements Will tolerate shallow and basic soils. Light demanding.

Recommendations An attractive small tree with strong autumn colour. On the edge of its natural range in Durham and not characteristic of its flora other than in parts of the southeast. Not suitable for widespread planting but may be used as a woodland fringe or under storey species or as a hedgerow shrub/tree in the south and east of the County on base rich soils.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zone 204.

Gooseberry *Ribes uva-crispa*

Status Native & introduced.

Distribution Widespread with a bias towards the south of the County.

Habitats Diverse: woodland, scrub, road verges & waste ground.

Requirements Will grow on a broad range of soils. Light demanding.

Recommendations A small, thorny, fruit-bearing shrub. Suitable for planting in small numbers in woodland margins and hedgerows.

Origins/provenance Unlikely to have been widely planted in the past other than on a very local scale using local plant material or fruit cultivars. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204 and avoid garden varieties.

Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread in the lowlands, the east, and valleys of the Pennine fringe.

Habitats Woodland, scrub, hedgerows, banks of streams & ponds.

Requirements Typical of damp/heavy neutral or calcareous soils: tolerates a broader range.

Recommendations An attractive shrub bearing conspicuous flowers and berries. Suitable for planting as a woodland fringe or hedgerow species, particularly in lowland & valley situations and on damper sites.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Dispersed widely in the droppings of birds. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Notes The related Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana* is not considered to be a county native.

Hawthorn, May *Crateagus monogyna*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Hedgerows, woodland, scrub, road verges, railway banks, waste ground.

Requirements Will grow on most soils. Tolerates exposure.

Recommendations A small fast growing thorny tree bearing flowers and fruit. Suitable for general planting as a woodland under storey & fringe species, and as the major component of most hedgerows. A pioneer species on difficult or exposed sites.

Origins/provenance Hawthorn has been very widely planted as a hedgerow shrub although there area also wild populations in semi-natural woodlands. Use plants of northern & easterly UK provenance. Flowering times of regional genotypes may have significance for invertebrates: avoid European sources.

Hazel *Corylus avellana*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Deciduous woodland, hedges, scrub on limestones.

Requirements Will grow on most soils although avoiding infertile acidic sites. Shade tolerant.

Recommendations A fast growing small tree. Suitable for general planting as a woodland under storey and fringe species and as a component of hedgerows & scrub. A good coppice tree producing small dimension round wood for traditional crafts.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Has been planted in the past as a coppice species although often in very localised situations and probably using local plant material. Widely present in semi-natural woodlands. Relatively localised dispersal strategy. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Holly *Ilex aquifolium*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread although sparse on the Magnesian Limestone.

Habitats Deciduous woodland, hedges.

Requirements Will grow on a broad range soils, avoiding only very dry or wet conditions. Tolerates shade & pollution, and exposure when established.

Recommendations An attractive slow growing evergreen tree. Suitable for general planting as a woodland under storey & fringe species and as a hedgerow shrub.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are largely wild. Has been widely planted in the past as an ornamental & hedgerow species. Dispersed widely in the droppings of birds. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204..

Honeysuckle, Woodbine *Lonicera periclymenum*

Status Native

Distribution Well distributed on the Coal Measures, thinner elsewhere.

Habitats Woodland margins, hedgerows and scrub.

Requirements Damper soils.

Recommendations An attractive climbing flowering shrub. Not generally appropriate for new planting due to its climbing habit. Can be expected to colonise suitable sites naturally in time.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are predominantly wild although commonly planted as a garden plant. Dispersed widely in the droppings of birds. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204. Avoid ornamental varieties when planting in a natural context.

Ivy *Hedera helix*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats As a climber and ground layer species in woodland & hedgerow and on walls, cliffs and field trees.

Requirements Broadly tolerant.

Recommendations Evergreen climbing and ground layer shrub. Not generally appropriate for new planting due to its climbing habit. It can be expected to colonise suitable sites naturally in time.

Origins/provenance Use plant material of local provenance – and particularly from cuttings - or FC seed zones 302 & 204. Avoid ornamental varieties when planting in a natural context.

Juniper Juniperus communis

Status Native.

Distribution Scattered in moorland margins and upland valleys in the west. Localised in coastal dunes and magnesian limestone cliffs in the east. Rare elsewhere.

Habitats Scrub on rocky & well-drained moorland margins & gullies. Open birch woodland. Scrub and open woodland in coastal dunes and magnesian limestone cliffs.

Requirements Infertile freely drained sites. Light demanding. Tolerance of highly calcareous and acidic soils appears to be related to local genotype.

Recommendations A slow growing evergreen shrub. Planting should be limited to areas where it occurs naturally – upland and lowland heaths and coastal gills and grasslands – using local plant material.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild and often isolated. There may be variation between upland and lowland genotypes. Use plants of local provenance.

Oak (Common), English Oak, Pedunculate Oak Quercus robur

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread

Habitats Mixed deciduous woodland, hedgerows, parkland. Together with Sessile Oak a major component of many semi-natural woodlands in the county.

Requirements Will grow in a wide range of soils and situations. More tolerant than Sessile Oak of wetter ground. For timber production heavier fertile soils and sheltered sites are required.

Recommendations A slow growing forest tree capable of producing versatile high quality timber on better sites. Suitable for general planting as a woodland, hedgerow & parkland tree.

Origins/provenance Has been widely planted in the past although also a very common wild species. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204. When timber quality is an aim use plants of FC certified stock.

Notes Oak hybridises relatively freely and individual trees found in the field may be intermediate in type, or hybrids Quercus x rosacea, between Common Oak and Sessile Oak

Oak (Sessile), Durmast Oak Quercus petraea

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread, being most common in the Pennines & Pennine Fringe and particularly the Coal Measures.

Habitats Mixed deciduous woodland, hedgerows. Together with Common Oak a major component of many semi-natural woodlands in the county, particularly in association with Birch on acidic, leached & infertile soils.

Requirements Will grow in a wide range of soils and situations. More tolerant than Common Oak of drier & less fertile sites. For timber production well drained fertile soils and sheltered sites are required.

Recommendations A slow growing forest tree capable of producing versatile high quality timber. Suitable for general planting as a woodland and hedgerow tree, particularly in the Pennines and Pennine fringe.

Origins/provenance Has been widely planted in the past although also a very common wild species. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204. When timber quality is an aim use plants of FC certified stock.

Notes Oak hybridises relatively freely and individual trees found in the field may be intermediate in type, or hybrids (*Quercus x rosacea*), between Sessile Oak and Common Oak.

Poplar (Aspen) *Populus tremula*

Status Native

Distribution Widespread but sparse, though may be locally abundant.

Habitats Woodland, scrub, hedges, plantations, watercourses, roadsides & railway banks.

Requirements Will grow on most soils. Light demanding. Tolerates exposure.

Recommendations A fast growing tree suitable for planting as a woodland fringe species, particularly on poor or exposed sites and along natural watercourses. Coppices well though producing low value timber.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Occasionally planted as a landscaping tree. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204

Black Poplar *Populus nigra* var. *betulifolia*

Status Re-Introduced - formerly native

Distribution Very rare - a few individual specimens.

Habitats River flood plains, hedgerows, carr.

Requirements Deeper & heavier damp neutral or alkaline soils. Alluvial soils.

Recommendations A large fast growing tree on the limit of its natural range in County Durham. There may be merit in reintroducing it to areas from which it may have disappeared such as the carrs and flats of the Tees Lowlands and on lowland river floodplains elsewhere.

Origins/provenance An ancient introduction. All existing plants are male and have been planted. Use plants of local provenance where available. There may be merit in using material from FC seed zones 302 & 401 to widen the genetic base.

Raspberry *Rubus idaeus*

Status Native & introduced.

Distribution Widespread though more common in the Pennine Fringe & lowland valleys.

Habitats Woodland, scrub, hedge banks, road verges, railway lines.

Requirements Prefers damp sheltered sites & acidic soils.

Recommendations Not particularly suited to new planting.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Not widely planted in the past other than domestic fruit cultivars which interbreed with the wild type. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204 and avoid fruit cultivars.

Rose (Burnet) *Rosa pimpinellifolia*

Status Native.

Distribution The coast, magnesian limestones & occasionally on upland limestone sites.

Habitats Scrub, waste ground, old quarries.

Requirements Free draining base rich soils. Light demanding.

Recommendations Suckering species suitable for planting in hedgerows & scrub on free draining sites, and particularly on limestones and the coast

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Rose (Dog) *Rosa canina*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Woodland, scrub, hedges, road verges.

Requirements Broad tolerance. Light demanding.

Recommendations A suitable species for general planting as a shrub in woodland margins, and scrub. Commonly found in hedgerows although not always well regarded by farmers and hedge cutters.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are largely wild although increasingly used in recent years as a landscaping shrub. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Rose (Field) *Rosa arvensis*

Status *Native.*

Distribution *Rare and localised.*

Habitats *Open woodland.*

Requirements *Broad tolerance.*

Recommendations A rare species in County Durham where it is on the edge of its range. It is not recommended for general planting.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Use plants of local provenance.

Rose (Northern Dog-rose), Glaucous Dog-rose *Rosa afzeliana*

Status *Native.*

Distribution *Widespread but more common in the west.*

Habitats *Woodland margins, hedgerows, quarries, railway banks and upland road verges.*

Requirements *Broad tolerance.*

Recommendations An alternative to Dog-rose but difficult to obtain commercially.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Use plants of local provenance. Allowing natural colonisation may be the preferred option.

Rose (Hairy Dog-rose), Leathery-leaved Rose *Rosa coriifolia*

Status *Native.*

Distribution *Widespread but more common in the east.*

Habitats *Magnesian Limestone scrub, quarries, hedges, woodland margins.*

Requirements *Broad tolerance.*

Recommendations An alternative to Dog rose but difficult to obtain commercially.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Use plants of local provenance. Allowing natural colonisation may be the preferred option.

Sherard's Downy Rose *Rosa sherardii*

Status *Native.*

Distribution *Widespread but sparse.*

Habitats *Hedges, scrub, road verges.*

Requirements *Broad tolerance.*

Recommendations An alternative to Dog rose but difficult to obtain commercially.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Use plants of local provenance. Allowing natural colonisation may be the preferred option.

Soft Downy Rose, Downy Rose *Rosa mollis*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Scrub, hedge banks, woodland margins, upland road verges.

Requirements Will grow on a range of better-drained soils. Tolerates exposure.

Recommendations An alternative to dog rose. Vigorous suckering habit.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Use plants of local provenance. Allowing natural colonisation may be the preferred option.

Sweet Briar, Eglantine *Rosa rubiginosa*

Status Native & introduced.

Distribution Localised.

Habitats Hedgerows, disturbed sites.

Requirements Well-drained neutral or calcareous soils.

Recommendations An uncommon species in County Durham which is not recommended for general planting.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are wild. Use plants of local provenance. Allowing natural colonisation may be the preferred option.

Rowan, Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread though more thinly distributed in the east.

Habitats Woodland, scrub, stream sides, road verges, rock & scree.

Requirements Will grow on a broad range of soils. Tolerates shade and exposure.

Recommendations An attractive small tree bearing conspicuous flowers and berries. A fast growing pioneer species suitable for general planting as a woodland fringe and under storey species, particularly in the west of the county and on poor and exposed sites.

Origins/provenance The existing population is largely wild although increasingly planted as a landscaping tree. Widely dispersed by birds. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204 and avoid ornamental cultivars in rural situations.

Notes The related Whitebeam is not considered a native of County Durham though naturalised in places. Rock Whitebeam *Sorbus rupicola*, is very rare and found here only on limestone exposures in Teesdale.

Small Leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*

Status Native & planted.

Distribution Rare & localised.

Habitats Ancient woodland sites, particularly in lowland gorges & limestone denes.

Requirements Prefers heavier and deeper neutral and alkaline soils.

Recommendations A large forest tree on the edge of its natural range in County Durham and therefore not typical of its woodland flora. It does not set viable seed here in the current climate and is found in a small number of ancient woodlands where its presence is indicative of great antiquity. It is not recommended for general planting in rural situations. Existing trees should be conserved where they are found.

Origins/provenance Existing populations are predominantly wild but it has been occasionally planted as an avenue or parkland tree. Ornamental cultivars may be suitable in these situations but planting elsewhere is not recommended.

Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*

Status Native.

Distribution Rare & largely restricted to the magnesian limestone.

Habitats Hedgerows and woodland margins.

Requirements Well-drained neutral and calcareous soils.

Recommendations A small tree on the edge of its natural range in County Durham and therefore not typical of its woodland flora. It is not recommended for general planting. Existing populations should be conserved where they are found. It may have been eradicated in some areas as a host of the Black Bean Aphid.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Use plants of local provenance.

Spurge Laurel *Daphne laureola*

Status Native.

Distribution Sparsely distributed on the Magnesian Limestone.

Habitats Hedgerows and woodlands.

Requirements Well-drained neutral and calcareous soils. Shade tolerant.

Recommendations On the edge of its natural range in Durham. Not recommended for widespread planting.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Dispersed locally by birds. Use plants of local provenance.

Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*

Status Native and introduced.

Distribution Widely distributed.

Habitats Deciduous woodlands & hedgerows.

Requirements Typical of more base rich soils, though tolerating a broader range.

Recommendations A small fast growing species. Suitable for planting in small numbers as a shrub in hedgerows and woodland margins, and in coastal scrub.

Origins/provenance Widely planted in the past as a garden shrub but also a common wild species. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Willow (Almond) *Salix triandra*

Status Native.

Distribution Very rare in County Durham: restricted to a few lowland sites.

Habitats Stream banks.

Requirements Wet sites. Neutral or calcareous soils.

Recommendations A rare plant in County Durham. Not recommended for general planting.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Use cuttings from local plants.

Willow (Bay) *Salix pentandra*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread but thinly distributed.

Habitats Damp woods, alder carr, stream banks & shaded road banks.

Requirements Wet sites.

Recommendations A fast growing small tree suitable for planting in small numbers on damp sites or adjacent to wetlands or watercourses.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Use plants of local or regional provenance and preferably cuttings from local plants.

Willow (Crack) *Salix fragilis*

Status Native.

Distribution Wide distribution.

Habitats River & stream banks, drainage ditches, damp woods.

Requirements Will grow on a range of wetter neutral or alkaline soils. Light demanding.

Recommendations A large fast growing tree suitable for planting as a woodland fringe species, particularly adjacent to wetlands & watercourses.

Origins/provenance The existing population is predominantly wild. Spreads vegetatively along watercourses as well as from seed. Use plants of local provenance, preferably cuttings from local plants, or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Willow (Creeping) *Salix repens*

Status Native.

Distribution Scattered on limestones, particularly in the east but also in Teesdale.

Habitats Damp heaths, coastal cliffs, limestone quarries.

Requirements Limestone sites.

Recommendations A dwarf shrub. Appropriate only for specialist habitat creation schemes.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Use cuttings from local plants.

Dark leaved willow *Salix myrsinifolia* (*S. nigricans*)

Status Native.

Distribution Sparse: lowland denes, hill streams.

Habitats Damp woodland, stream sides, scrub.

Requirements Damp neutral or alkaline soils.

Recommendations Not suitable for general planting. May have uses in restoration of limestone quarries and the reconstruction of bank side vegetation along upland streams.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Use plants of local provenance and preferably cuttings from local plants.

Eared Sallow *Salix aurita*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread but thinly distributed. Most common on the Coal Measures.

Habitats Damp woodland and scrub, streamsides, road verges.

Requirements Wet acidic soils. Withstands shade.

Recommendations A medium sized shrub willow suitable for planting in scrub and woodland margins on wet ground.

Origins/provenance The existing population is predominantly wild. Use plants of local provenance, preferably cuttings from local plants, or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Willow (Goat), Pussy Willow. *Salix caprea*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread. Particularly frequent on Coal Measures.

Habitats Watercourses, ponds, damp woodland, scrub & carr, road verges, hedgerows, railway banks, disturbed land.

Requirements Will grow in most soils & situations. Tolerates shade and exposure.

Recommendations A fast growing small tree suitable for planting in scrub and woodland margins and adjacent to watercourses and wetlands. Particularly useful on poor ground.

Origins/provenance The existing population is largely wild although increasingly planted as a landscaping shrub. Use plants of local provenance, preferably cuttings from local plants, or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Willow (Grey), Common Sallow *Salix cineria*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Watercourses, ponds, damp woodland, scrub & carr, road verges, hedgerows, railway banks, disturbed land.

Requirements Will grow in most soils & situations.

Recommendations A fast growing small tree suitable for planting in scrub and woodland margins and adjacent to watercourses and wetlands. Particularly useful on poor ground.

Origins/provenance The existing population is largely wild although increasingly planted as a landscaping shrub. Use plants of local provenance, preferably cuttings from local plants, or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Willow (Osier) *Salix viminalis*

Status Doubtfully native. Introduced.

Distribution Widespread, though more common in the east.

Habitats Watercourses, ditches, ponds & damp woodlands.

Requirements Prefers damp neutral or alkaline soils.

Recommendations An old introduction if not a native of the County & suitable for planting adjacent to watercourses and wetlands.

Origins/provenance Has been widely planted in the past and heavily influenced by selection. Avoid short rotation coppice cultivars unless planting for that purpose.

Willow (Purple), Purple Osier *Salix purpurea*

Status Native & introduced.

Distribution Well distributed along main watercourses.

Habitats River banks, shingle.

Requirements Wet sites.

Recommendations A fast growing large shrub suitable for planting along watercourses, particularly major rivers, but not for more general planting.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Use plants of local provenance. Where possible use cuttings from the same river catchment.

Willow (Tea-leaved) *Salix phylicifolia*

Status Native.

Distribution Pennine Dales, occasionally elsewhere. Highly localised.

Habitats River banks, scars & screes, damp woodland, limestone quarries.

Requirements Wet rocky limestone sites.

Recommendations A small tree not recommended for general planting: may have uses in the restoration of limestone quarries and the reconstruction of bank side vegetation along upland streams.

Origins/provenance The existing population is wild. Use cuttings from nearby plants.

White Willow *Salix alba*

Status Doubtfully native. Introduced.

Distribution Scattered, more common in the lowlands.

Habitats Damp woods, river banks & pond sides.

Requirements Prefers damp neutral or alkaline soils.

Recommendations An old introduction if not a native of the County. Suitable for planting adjacent to watercourses and wetlands in the lowlands.

Origins/provenance The existing population is probably planted or naturalised rather than truly wild. Use plants of local provenance, preferably cuttings from local plants, or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra*

Status Native.

Distribution Widespread.

Habitats Mixed deciduous woodlands, hedges.

Requirements Prefers calcareous soils but tolerates a broader range avoiding very acid conditions. Moist well-drained & fertile sites.

Recommendations Formerly an important component of the county's woodland flora it is not recommended for widespread planting due to the prevalence of Dutch Elm Disease. Planting in small numbers in new woodlands may nevertheless have some value as it will persist as a shrub/small tree in the under storey subject to cyclical dieback.

Origins/provenance The existing population is largely wild. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Notes The related English Elm is likely to be an ancient introduction rather than a county native

Yew *Taxus baccata*

Status Native and introduced.

Distribution Considered native on Carboniferous & Magnesian Limestone sites although may have had a wider natural distribution. Widespread as a planted tree.

Habitats Deciduous woodlands and scrub in limestone scars & coastal dunes, and as a specimen tree in churchyards, parks & gardens.

Requirements Strongly associated with calcareous soils though tolerant of a broader range. Shade tolerant.

Recommendations Slow growing evergreen tree suitable for planting as an ornamental species in formal landscapes or as a component of woodland and scrub on calcareous soils.

Origins/provenance Has been widely planted in the past although also wild populations also present. Dispersed widely by birds. Use plants of local provenance or FC seed zones 302 & 204.

Other Native Woody Species – dwarf shrubs

Bearberry *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

A dwarf shrub found in cracks & crevices in upland dolerite rocks. Very rare in Durham where it is found only in upper Teesdale.

Bell Heather *Erica cinerea*

A common dwarf shrub of dry upland and lowland heaths. Found on the drier eastern moors of the North Pennines, and the heaths of the West Durham Coalfield and Wear Lowlands.

Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*

A common dwarf shrub of upland moors, lowland heaths and acidic woodlands. Found across the moorlands and oak-birch woodlands of the North Pennines, and the heaths of the West Durham Coalfield and Wear Lowlands.

Bog Bilberry *Vaccinium uliginosum*

A dwarf shrub of upland blanket bog. Very rare in Durham and found only on the higher moorlands of the North Pennines.

Cloudberry, Knoutberry *Rubus chamaemorus*

A dwarf shrub of upland blanket bog. Very rare in Durham and found only on the highest moorland summits of the North Pennines.

Common Rock Rose *Helianthemum nummularium*

A dwarf shrub of limestone grasslands, quarries, cliffs & coastal dunes and food source of the Durham Argus Butterfly. Restricted in Durham to the limestones of the East Durham Limestone Plateau and Upper Teesdale.

Cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idea*

A dwarf shrub of montane heath & scree. Rare in Durham and found only on a few Pennine moors.

Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*

A dwarf shrub found in upland mires & flushes in the North Pennines.

Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*

A common dwarf shrub of upland mires, blanket bog and wet heath. Found on wetter moorlands in the North Pennines and wet heathland in the West Durham Coalfield.

Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*

A Common dwarf shrub of upland & lowland heaths. Found on the moors of the North Pennines and the heaths of the West Durham Coalfield and Wear Lowlands.

Downy Currant *Ribes spicatum*

A rare native of woodlands on limestone.

Dwarf Birch *Betula nana*

A rare species in County Durham, unique to one upland site.

Dyers Greenweed *Genista tinctoria*

A rare dwarf shrub with a scattered distribution on heaths & road verges.

Dewberry *Rubus caesius*

Thinly distributed in hedgerows & woodlands on base rich soils, particularly in East Durham.

Harsh Downy Rose *Rubus tormentosa*

A very rare rose in County Durham. Restricted to a single site.

Heather *Calluna vulgaris*

A common dwarf shrub of heath & mire, open woodlands on acidic or free draining soils, & waste ground. Found across the moorlands and oak-birch woodlands of the North Pennines, the heaths of the West Durham Coalfield & Wear Lowlands and areas of colliery spoil and other waste ground.

Mountain Currant *Ribes alpinum*

A rare native of limestone denes and gorges, also found as a garden escape.

Petty Whin *Genista anglica*

A rare dwarf shrub with a scattered distribution on heaths, rough grassland, road verges, railway banks & woodland margins.

Red Currant *Ribes rubrum*

Possibly native but also found as a garden escape. Thinly distributed with a bias towards the east.

Rock Whitebeam *Sorbus rupicola*

Rare whitebeam found growing in rock crevices on limestone exposures in Teesdale.

Shrubby Cinquefoil *Potentilla fruticosa*

A small deciduous shrub. Rare native of river shingle on the upper Tees. Planted as an ornamental garden and landscaping species elsewhere.

Stone Bramble *Rubus saxatilis*

A rare found on limestone cliffs

Western Gorse *Ulex gallii*

Found only rarely in County Durham, it is restricted to a few heathland sites