



Prunus / Cherry flower

Choosing the right tree to plant

Choosing what tree to plant can be difficult with the number of different species, cultivars and varieties that are currently available. There are a number of useful books and websites, but if you are still unsure it may be useful to visit a garden or arboretum. There are some basic points that should be considered as follows.

Soil - will the tree grow well in the soil in which is to be planted? Acidity, drainage and the type of soil will all have a bearing. Some tree species are more specific than others as to their requirements.

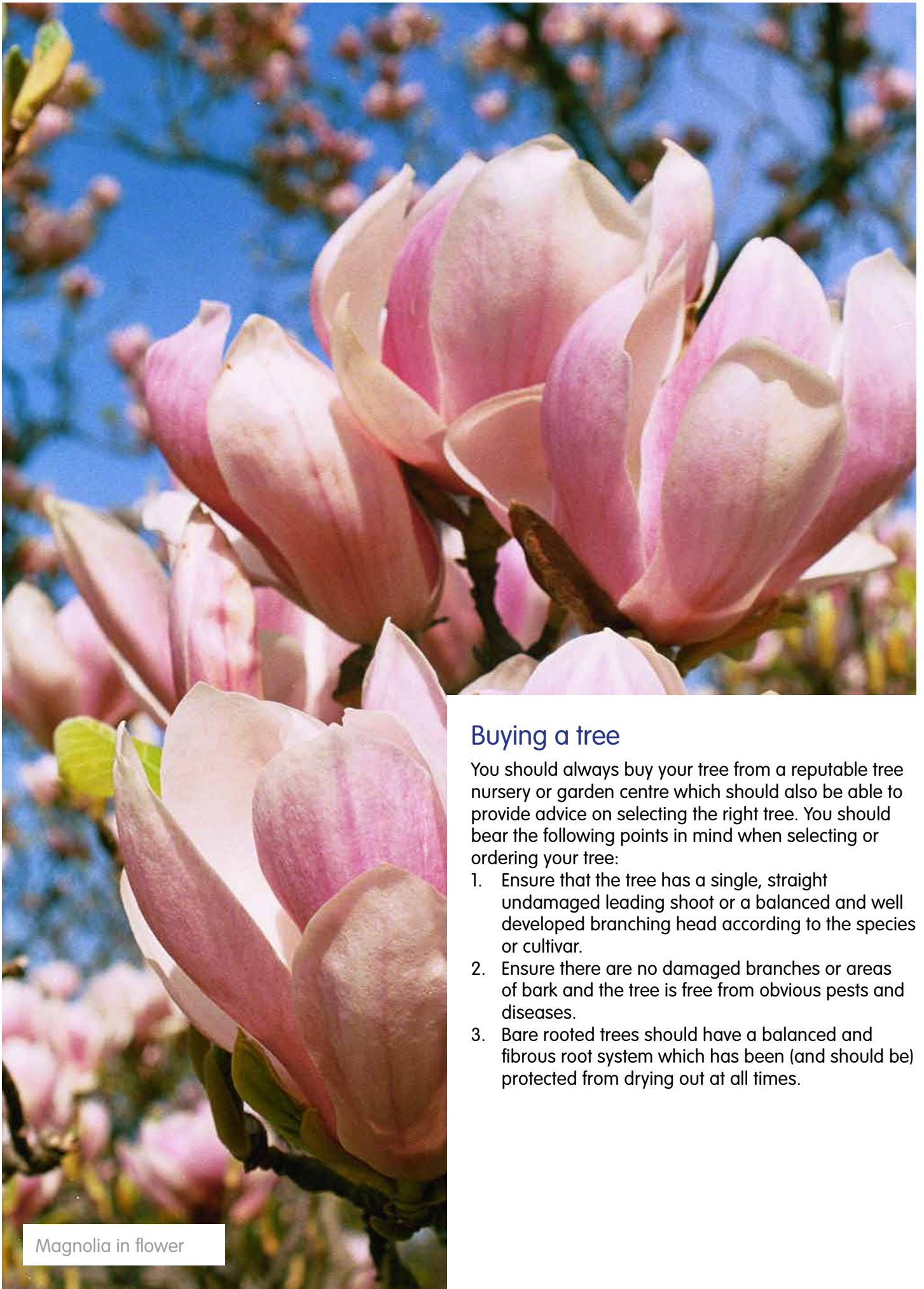
Local distinctiveness - what species grow naturally in the area already? Native species are usually best for wildlife and 'fit in' with the landscape character and are normally preferable to ornamental species.

Available space - is the tree able to reach its full life expectancy without causing future conflict with

buildings, shading, overhanging roads and footpaths etc.? It may not be sensible to replace a large forest type tree in a small domestic garden with another one unless you are prepared to remove it before it outgrows its situation.

Benefits - as well as having obvious ornamental attributes, trees provide shelter, reduce temperature extremes and produce oxygen.

Once you have decided on your tree, the next step is to purchase it. Please bear in mind that if you have removed a protected tree (that is one growing in a conservation area or subject to a tree preservation order) there may either be a duty (as in the case of dead or dangerous trees) or a condition (in the case of a tree preservation order application) requiring the planting of a replacement tree. In this situation you may be required to agree the species of the replacement tree with the council before you plant it.



Magnolia in flower

Buying a tree

You should always buy your tree from a reputable tree nursery or garden centre which should also be able to provide advice on selecting the right tree. You should bear the following points in mind when selecting or ordering your tree:

1. Ensure that the tree has a single, straight undamaged leading shoot or a balanced and well developed branching head according to the species or cultivar.
2. Ensure there are no damaged branches or areas of bark and the tree is free from obvious pests and diseases.
3. Bare rooted trees should have a balanced and fibrous root system which has been (and should be) protected from drying out at all times.



Betula utilis Sp. (Paper Barked Birch)



Quercus rubra (Red Oak) in Autumn

Small trees up to 8m/30'; native species

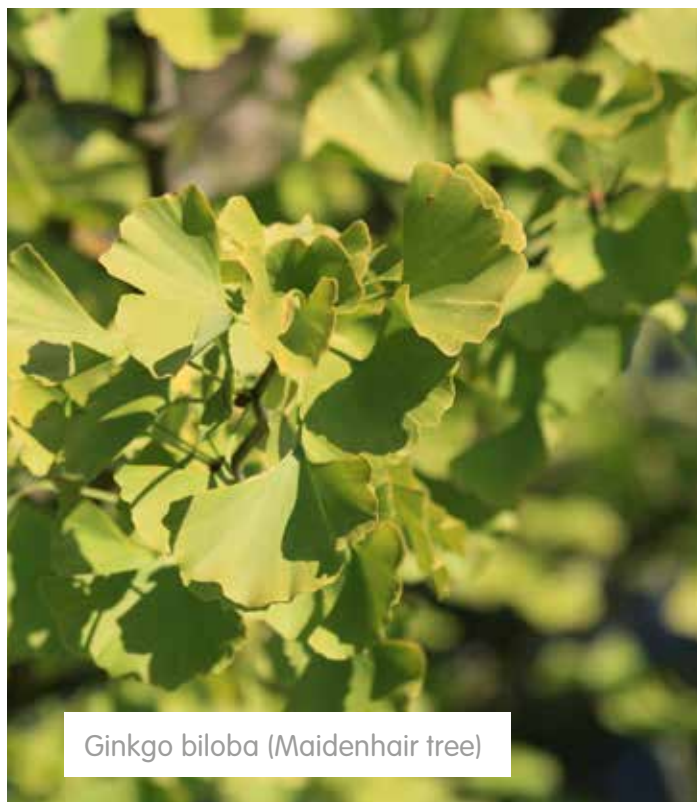
- Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*); attractive bark and autumn colours. The cultivar 'Darlecarlica', also known as the Swedish birch is a graceful tree with finely cut leaves. Plant container grown.
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*); thorny but with good spring and autumn colours. The cultivar 'Stricta' has a more upright form.
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*); evergreen tree, females have good fruit effects. 'Green Pillar' and 'Pyramidalis' are two of the more compact female cultivars. Plant container grown. Slow growing.
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*); good spring and autumn colours. It used to be planted to ward off evil spirits.
- Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*); leaves emerge a creamy white in spring. Prefers chalk soils.
- Wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*); white flowers in spring, red autumn colours.
- Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*); red berries or Purging Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*); dark glossy leaves.
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) Sloe berries
- Common Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) Evergreen slow growing.
- Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) White flowers and red fruits.

Small trees up to 8m/30'; ornamental species

- Purple Norway Maple variety (*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson Sentry'); a columnar tree with reddy purple leaves.
- Cut leaved Alder (*Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis'); deeply cut leaves cast light shade. Plant container grown
- Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis* 'Silver Shadow'); compact tree with white bark and large drooping green leaves. Plant container grown.
- Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*) Pea shaped
- pink flowers before leaves on branches, heart shaped leaves.
- Pillar Apple (*Malus tschonoskii*); compact with good spring and autumn colours, tolerates heavier soils.
- Chanticleer Pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'); pyramidal shape with good spring and autumn colours. Tolerates dry sites, plant container grown.
- Golden Robinia (*Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia'); a tree with pinnate golden leaves that cast light shade, prefers a well drained soil.
- Fern leaved Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia* 'Asplenifolia'); has more deeply serrated leaflets than the type that cast light shade, good autumn colours.
- Japanese Rowan (*Sorbus commixta*); a compact tree with attractive winter buds and good spring and autumn colours. *Sorbus* 'Embley' is very similar.

Medium trees 8-18m/30-60'; native species

- Field Maple (*Acer campestre*); a small leaved tree of character with good autumn colours. The cultivars 'Elsrijk' and 'Streetwise' have a more compact conical habit.
- Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*); Thrives on damp sites, good winter colours with twigs and catkins.
- Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) Evergreen, responds well to pruning, fragrant stems, purple fruits.
- Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*); has attractive orangey bark and blue/green needles. Prefers acid soils. Plant container grown.
- Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*); also known as gean or mazzard, it has good spring and autumn colours. It does have a large spreading root system so requires plenty of room.
- Plymouth Pear (*Pyrus cordata*) Rare tree with rounded brown woody fruits.
- Yew (*Taxus baccata*) Evergreen, attractive red fruits, dark green foliage.



Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair tree)

Medium trees 8-18m/30-60'; ornamental species

- Lobel's Maple (*Acer lobelia*); a compact tree with bright green leaves and yellow autumn colour. The young bark is striped.
- Sweet Buckeye (*Aesculus flava*); a member of the horse chestnut family with yellow flowers and good autumn colours.
- Italian Alder (*Alnus cordata*); has a pyramidal crown with pear like leaves and tolerates wet, dry and chalk soils. Plant container grown.
- White Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis* var *jacquemontii*); has a beautiful white bark and thrives in most soils. Plant container grown.
- Katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) Autumn foliage smells of burnt sugar or candy floss, attractive heart shaped leaves.
- Turkish Hazel (*Corylus colurna*); a distinctive tree with large green leaves and yellow catkins in early spring. Compact when young.
- Common Walnut (*Juglans regia*); rough barked with scented pinnate leaves and edible fruit. Plant container grown.
- Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) Stunning autumn colour, star shaped leaves attractive pyramidal form.
- Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) Attractive autumn colour, responds well to pruning.
- Lime cultivar (*Tilia* 'Harold Hillier'); a handsome, vigorous and narrowly conical tree with good autumn colours. Does not suffer from honey-dew problems.



Acer palmatum (Japanese maple)



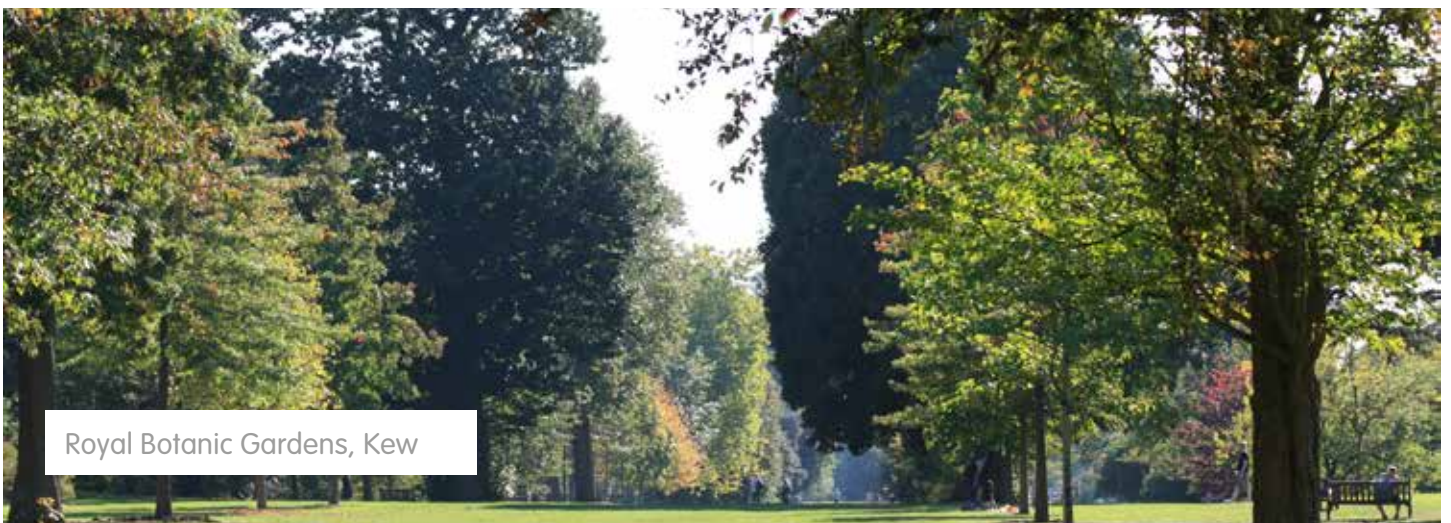
Platanus x hispanica (London Plane)

Large trees –15-30m; ornamental species

- Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*); a large tree suitable for parks and large open spaces. Leaf has a silver underside.
- Indian Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus indica*) large doom shaped crown, attractive candles of flowers and conkers, majestic tree with some level of immunity to bacterial bleeding canker.
- Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) Versatile fast growing large tree with catkins, glossy green leaves and edible fruits when cooked.
- Indian Bean Tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*) Flowering tree with broad leaves and seed pods.
- Handkerchief tree / Dove tree (*Davidia involucre*) Large white hanging bracts in May and oval fruit in autumn.
- Maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) Deciduous conifer, large conical tree with yellow autumn colour and two lobed leaves like a fan, females produce fruit but have unpleasant smell so preference to plant males.
- Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) Broadly pyramidal crown, fissured bark from young age, produces edible fruits.
- Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) Flowering tree with attractive leaf shape.
- Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) Deciduous conifer, attractive bronze autumn colour, pyramidal form, suitable for wet soils, red bark.
- Fox glove tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) Large purple flowers, large broad leaves.
- Oriental plane (*Platanus orientalis*) Large crowned tree, responds well to pruning, striking bark, deeply cut 5 lobed leaves.
- Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) Conical evergreen, thick fibrous red brown bark.

Large trees – native species

- Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) – Grey fluted trunk, yellow autumn colour, grows well on most soils including clay and chalk. The cultivar 'Frans Fontaine' is an upright form that retains its habit.
- Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) Smooth bark, broad domed crown, bronze autumn colour, attractive husked fruits.
- Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) Fissured bark with age, winged fruits, pinnate leaves.
- Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*) Rounded habit, good for wildlife.
- English oak (*Quercus robur*) Doomed shape crown, good for wildlife, produces acorns.
- Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) Deciduous broadleaf
- Large leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) Tolerant of pruning, luscious foliage.
- Small leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) Deciduous small leaved tree dark green on top, pale underneath with creamy white flowers.
- Smooth leaved English Elm (*Ulmus minor var minor*) Rare following dutch elm disease, usually plant resistant varieties like *Ulmus Clusius*, *Dodoens*, *Lobel* or *lutece*.



Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



Gardens to see trees in Test Valley

Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum and Gardens, Romsey – www.3hants.gov.uk/hilliergardens/hillier-info.htm

Longstock Water Gardens – <http://leckfordestate.co.uk/water-gardens-opening-times>

Houghton Lodge Gardens – www.houghtonlodge.co.uk

Mottifont Abbey and Gardens – <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottifont>

Romsey Abbey – www.romseyabbey.org.uk

Broadlands House, Romsey – www.broadlandsestates.co.uk

Local Nature reserves in Test Valley – <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/communityandleisure/naturereserves/>

Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve

River Anton Way

Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve

Tadburn Meadows Local Nature Reserve

Valley Park Woodlands Local Nature Reserve

Useful contacts and references:

If you have any concerns regarding trees managed by Test Valley Borough Council - often land in public open spaces and parks - please contact Customer Services who will firstly confirm whether the land is indeed managed by the council.

Telephone 01264 368000 or 01794 527700 / Minicom 01264 368052

Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ. www.testvalley.gov.uk

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