

Seed to sapling

Newsletter



WELCOME

Hello! Welcome to the first edition of the Seed to Sapling Newsletter.

First, let me introduce myself to those of you that I haven't already met. My name is Eva and I joined the YDMT team in June as the new Community Conservation Officer. That's me on the far right joined by Aila (left) and Olivia (right), our two woodland trainees whom hopefully you will have already met!



My role at the trust is to work with local community groups like yourselves, in and around the Dales and the Forest of Bowland, to deliver projects that you want to be involved in. This of course involves the Seed to Sapling project, but also others like the One Acre Meadow project. Most importantly, my aim is to deliver the projects, events and training that you want to be involved in. So, if you have any ideas, let me know! So far, I have had requests for training on; how to grow trees from cuttings, hedge laying, and coppicing skills and I am working on arranging these activities for those that are interested.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Over the last couple of months, we have had some lovely sessions with several of the community groups including; potting on our saplings with the Malham, Clapham, Settle and Swaledale groups and building new lids for the tree growing boxes at Reeth.

Take a look at some photos from the sessions on the next page!





UPCOMING EVENTS

20th August, 10-2pm

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Tree Group Potting on Event.



ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST

- Collect seeds!
- Sow your bird cherry and rowan seeds
- Stratify your downy birch and silver birch seeds



SEEDS TO COLLECT

- **Bird cherry**
- **Downy birch** (late August)
- **Rowan** (late August)
- **Silver birch** (late August)

How to Collect Seeds

- Only collect seeds if you have landowner permission to do so.
- For smaller fruits, pick seeds when they are ripe directly from the trees (where you can comfortably reach!)
- Larger fruits and nuts can be collected from the ground, but avoid any that have started to decay or look like they've been nibbled!
- The first seeds to drop often have limited success, so wait a few days for more to drop.
- Don't take too many seeds, they are an important food source for many animals.
- Take care not to disturb any wildlife, such as nesting birds.
- Collect different species in individual bags and label them with the location you have found them (what3words is useful for this), the date, and the species.
- Stratify your seeds as soon as you can.
- There are many different methods of seed stratification, so have a play around and see which method works for you! I have included some species-specific guidance below to help.

Bird Cherry

- Likes fertile woodland soils, but will also tolerate clay soils too.
- Cherries will turn black when they are ripe.
- You will need to extract the seed from the fruit, to do this you can cut the cherries in half and remove the seeds, or use a cherry pitter if you have one. Try to remove as much flesh as possible to avoid fermentation.
- Bird cherry needs to be sown straight away, so fill your germination tray 1/3 with equal quantities of compost and a coarse material such as coarse sand or fine gravel. Spread the seeds over the soil and cover with another 2-4cm of soil.
- Water the tray well and leave in a shady spot until Spring!
- Seedlings can be potted on once two sets of adult leaves have grown and the root has begun to appear.
- It can take two years to germinate, so be patient.

Downy Birch

- Likes light, infertile soil, particularly poorly-drained peat.
 - Bracts will turn from green to brown when they are ready to collect.
1. Store the bracts in a large paper bag or open tray/box. As the seeds dry in the paper bag they will drop their seeds, you can give them a shake to dislodge them once they have started to drop.
 2. Store the seeds in paper bags in a cool dry place until the Spring!

Rowan

- Likes poor, thin, acidic soils and is hardy, so is tolerant of very exposed sites.
- Berries will turn red when they are ripe.
- There are several methods for stratifying rowan seeds, here are a couple you can try:

Method 1:

Quicker and simpler but your seeds might take 2 years to grow and have lower germination success.

1. Prepare your germination tray by filling it 1/3 with equal quantities of compost and a coarse material such as coarse sand or fine gravel.
2. Scatter the berries over the soil and cover with another 2-4cm of soil.

Method 2:

Fiddly and will take a bit longer, but generally seeds will have higher germination success and start growing within the first year.

1. Mash the berries and then pass through a sieve to separate the seeds from the pulp. You can soak the seeds first to soften them, but be careful not to let them ferment.
 2. Rowan seeds need to be sown straight away, so fill your germination tray 1/3 with equal quantities of compost and a coarse material such as coarse sand or fine gravel. Spread the seeds over the soil and cover with another 2-4cm of soil.
 3. Water the tray well and leave in a shady spot until Spring!
- Seedlings can be potted on once two sets of adult leaves have grown and the root has begun to appear.
 - It can take two years to germinate, so be patient.

Silver Birch

- Likes well-drained soils.
 - Bracts will turn from green to brown when they are ready to collect.
1. Store the bracts in a large paper bag or open tray/box. As the seeds dry in the paper bag they will drop their seeds, you can give them a shake to dislodge them once they have started to drop.
 2. Store the seeds in paper bags in a cool dry place until the Spring!