

# Tree growing calendar

# Seed to sapling

KEY  COLLECT SEED  STORE  STRATIFY  SOW  GROW  PLANT

Common Name	Latin Name		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Alder	Alnus glutinosa	YR 1											COLLECT	STRATIFY
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW	GROW							PLANT	
	* Pick cones before they ripen and allow to air dry at room temperature.													
	* As the cones open, the small, winged seeds can be sown immediately or stratified over winter by covering with a thin layer of sharp sand.													
Aspen	Populus tremula	YR 1						COLT/SOW	GROW					
		YR 2											PLANT	
	* Remove sections of roots that are 1-3cm in diameter from exposed roots on a mature tree. Cut into 30cm sections.													
	* Stratify in bags, wrapped in moist paper or compost to ensure they do not dry out.													
	* Plant root cuttings as soon as possible after collection. Place roots in suitable containers covered with compost. Ensure they are protected from the elemets. A Polytun- nel is ideal.													
Birch, downy	Betular pubescens	YR 1								COLLECT		STORE	STRATIFY	
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW	GROW							PLANT	
	* Pick “Strobiles”(look like small cones) from the tree from the end of August. Lay out in thin layers or paper bags at room temperature to dry.													
	* Seeds can be sown immediately or stored in a cool, dry place in hessian or cotton bags. If stored soak with clean cold water for 24-48 hours before sowing.													
	* Cover the seed with only 1-2mm coarse sand or grit and leave over winter. It is important that the seed is not covered too thickly as this could prevent germination.													
Birch, sliver	Betular pendula	YR 1								COLLECT		STORE	STRATIFY	
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW	GROW							PLANT	
	* Pick “Strobiles”(look like small cones) from the tree from the end of August. Lay out in thin layers or paper bags at room temperature to dry.													
	* Seeds can be sown immediately or stored in a cool, dry place in hessian or cotton bags. If stored soak with clean cold water for 24-48 hours before sowing.													
	* Cover the seed with only 1-2mm coarse sand or grit and leave over winter. It is important that the seed is not covered too thickly as this could prevent germination.													
Blackthorn	Prunus Spinosa	YR 1									COLLECT		STRATIFY	
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW	GROW							PLANT	
	* Pick dark purple (ripe) sloe berries from the end of Sept. If picked too early you risk the seeds being immature.													
* The berries can be stored for a week or two in a cold, dry place before strtfying in a mix of sand and damp leaf-litter for one or two winters before planting.														

			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Cherry, bird	Prunus padus	YR 1							COLLECT		STRATIFY			
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW				GROW			PLANT		
	* Pick the black frutis from the tree by hand. Remove the seeds from the fruit and rinse with water as soon as possible.													
	* Stratify the seeds in a mixture of 50/50 sand and compost for at least one winter before planting.													
Cherry, wild	Prunus avium	YR 1							COLLECT		STORE		STRATIFY	
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW				GROW			PLANT		
	*Pick fruits in July when they have tunred red/yellow. You may need to collect before they ripen before the birds eat them. Remove seeds and rinse with water.													
	* Stratify for ususally one winter in a mixture of 50/50 compost and sharp sand. Keep outside in the shade in a well drained, mouse proof container.													
Crab apple	Malus sylvestris	YR 1									COLLECT		STRATIFY	
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW				GROW			PLANT		
	* Pick the fruit from the tree. Cut open the apple and collect the brown (ripe) seeds. Stratify the seeds in a mixture of leaf-litter and compost.													
	* In cool autumns germination can be improved by keeping stratifying seeds at room temperature for two weeks before putting them outside for the winter.													
Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea	YR 1									COLLECT	STRATIFY		
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW				GROW			PLANT		
	* Pick the black (ripe) fruits in autumn. Remove seeds from fruit and rinse with water. The seeds are deeply dormant and may take one or two winter to germinate.													
	* Germination can be improved by keeping stratifying seeds at room temperature for two months, befor putting thme outside for the remaining winter.													
Elder	Sambucus nigra	YR 1								COLLECT		STRATIFY		
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW	GROW						PLANT		
	* Pick dark purple (ripe) berries. Carefully squeeze the fruits to release the seeds and wash thoroughly.													
	* Stratify in a mix of sand and damp compost in a pot over one of often two winters, before planting.													
Guelder rose	Viburnum opulus	YR 1									COLLECT		STRATIFY	
		YR 2	STRATIFY			SOW	GROW						PLANT	
	* Pick the bright red bunches of berries from the trees in October. Remove the seeds from the fruit and rinse with water.													
	* Stratify in a pot with a mix of sand and compost for one or two winters. Use stones in the base of the pot for drainage and leave in a shady spot outside.													
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	YR 1									COLLECT		STRATIFY	
		YR 2	STRATIFY			SOW	GROW						PLANT	
	* Pick or collect red (ripe) berries. Remove the seeds from the fruit and rinse with water.													
	* Stratify in a mix of sand and compost in a pot for one but ususally for two winters. Always cover with wire mesh to protect from animals.													

			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Hazel	Corylus avellana	YR 1									COLLECT		STRATIFY		
		YR 2	OR STORE				SOW	GROW							PLANT
	* Pick the seeds as they ripen from green to brown in autumn. You can test the seeds in a bucket of water -those that sink are more likely to germinate.														
	* Either sow the nuts straight into a pot with compost or stratify over winter. Always protect from animals with wire mesh and protect against frost.														
Holly	Ilex aquifolium	YR 1										COLLECT			
		YR 2	STRATIFY				SOW	GROW							PLANT
	* Pick or collect Red (ripe) berries. If the flesh is hard, soak the berries for a day or two and then remove the flesh.														
	* Stratify the seeds for one or more winters and sow any germinating seeds each spring.														
Lime, Common or European	Tilia x europaea	YR 1										COLLECT	STRATIFY		
		YR 2	STRATIFY			SOW				GROW				PLANT	
	* Pick fruits from the tree after they have turned brown, usually after a frost.														
	* Stratify the seed for up to two winters.														
Lime, large leaved	Tilia platyphyllos	YR 1										COLLECT	STRATIFY		
		YR 2	STRATIFY			SOW				GROW				PLANT	
	* Pick the fruits from the tree when they have turned brown, usually after a frost.														
	* Stratify the seeds for up to two winters.														
Lime, small- leaved	Tilia cordata	YR 1										COLLECT	STRATIFY		
		YR 2	STRATIFY			SOW				GROW				PLANT	
	* Pick the fruits from the tree when they have turned brown, usually after a frost.														
	* Stratify the seeds for up to two winters.														
Oak, pend- unculate	Quercus robur	YR 1									COLLECT/SOW				
		YR 2	GROW												PLANT
	* Pick acorns straight from the tree or very soon after they drop but avoid the first to fall as they may be diseased or deformed and unlikely to grow.														
	* Sow straight away into compost or stratify over winter to allow the radical to appear (first root). Always protect from animals with wire mesh.														
Oak, sessile	Quercus petraea	YR 1									COLLECT/SOW				
		YR 2	GROW												PLANT
	* Pick acorns straight from the tree or very soon after they drop but avoid the first to fall as they may be diseased or deformed and unlikely to grow.														
	* Sow straight away into compost or stratify over winter to allow the radical to appear (first root). Always protect from animals with wire mesh.														
Purging buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	YR 1									COLLECT		STRATIFY		
		YR 2	STRATIFY			SOW				GROW				PLANT	
	* Pick fruits before they are ripe (black fruits) to beat the birds. Remove the seeds from the fruit and rinse with water.														
	* Stratify the seeds for (usually) one or (occasionally) two winters.														

			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Rowan</b>	Sorbus aucuparia	YR 1								COLLECT		STRATIFY		
		YR 2	STRATIFY		SOW		GROW						PLANT	
	* Pick or collect orange (ripe) berries. If the flesh is very red the seeds inside will be dormant and may take two winters to germinate.													
	* Carefully remove the seeds from the flesh and wash thoroughly. Stratify in a mix of sand and compost before planting germinating seeds in spring.													
<b>Scots pine</b>	Pinus sylvestris	YR 1										COLLECT		
		YR 2		STRATIFY	SOW		GROW						PLANT	
	* Pick cones from lower levels of the tree when they have turned brown or collect from the ground.													
	* Stratify in a paper bag or dish at room temperature to air dry and then sow the seeds immediately covering with a layer (5 mm )of sharp sand in spring.													
<b>Spindle</b>	Euonymus europaeus	YR 1									COLLECT	STRATIFY		
		YR 2	OR STORE		SOW		GROW						PLANT	
	* Pick the fruits when they are only just pink during October. Each fruit contains up to four seeds that should be extracted by hand and can be stored for a short time.													
	* To encourage germination the seeds can be stored for 2-3 months in a compost/sand mixture in a loosely tied plastic bag somewhere warm. Ensure the mixture remains moist and then around Dec/January place in a well drained pot in a shady spot outside covering the mixture with 2-3 cm sand.													
<b>Willow, seed</b>		YR 1			COLLECT/SOW		GROW						PLANT	
<b>Willow, cutting</b>		YR1	TAKE CUTTINGS		GROW								PLANT	
	* Remove a small brach or two with fruits still sttached.													
	* Sow immediatley into prepared seedbeds or fresh compost. Push the branches into the seedbed with regular gaps inbetween. Keep well watered as they love to grow in moist soil.													
<b>Wych elm</b>	Ulmus glabra	YR 1					COLLECT	SOW	GROW					
		YR 2											PLANT	
	* Pick fruits from the tree when wings begin to turn brown in May/June.													
	* Winged fruits can be sown into seed trays immediately. Keep well watered and shaded in hot weather.													
<b>Caution: Yew</b>	Yew trees contain the highly poisonous taxane alkaloids that have been developed as anti-cancer drugs. Eating just a few leaves can make a small child severely ill and there have been some deaths linked to yew poisoning. All parts of the tree are poisonous except for the flesh red arils that cover the seeds.													

The Seed to Sapling project, run by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, helps to ensure the right trees are available to plant in the Yorkshire Dales by creating community nurseries where native saplings are grown from local provenance seed.

**Find out more at**  
[www.ydmt.org/seed2sapling](http://www.ydmt.org/seed2sapling)

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust | Main Street,  
 Clapham via Lancaster LA2 8DP | Charity No. 1061687

