

## Growing trees from seeds

### Hazel

#### When to collect:

- Hazelnuts ripen August onwards.
- Can be collected August-September
- Collect from the tree wherever possible
- The ideal time to collect is when the nut is easy to remove from the husk

#### How to identify:

- Leaves are soft to the touch, with downy hairs on their underside
- Leaves are round to oval in shape and pointed at the tip
- Small green catkins can be present in Autumn



#### Processing and storage:

- Remove the bract (leafy cup the nut nestles in)
- Mix with compost and then place in the fridge from October for a month at a time. One month in the fridge, one month out of the fridge in rotation until April. Or leave it in a cool and shady space outside but make sure you protect from predators

### Hawthorn

#### When to collect:

- When the berries are ripe in September and October
- If you pick too early, you risk the berries being immature

#### How to identify:

- Leaves are around 6cm in length
- Twigs are slim, brown and covered in thorns



#### Processing and storage:

- Mash the berries with water to extract and clean the seed
- Once the seed is partially dry it can be stored in a ventilated container and mixed with 50/50 compost/sharp sand
- Store in a cool/dry place and place in the fridge Nov-March/April. Spray with water if needed
- Hawthorn can take two years to germinate

## Growing trees from seeds

### Blackthorn

#### When to collect:

- When the berries are ripe in September and October

#### How to identify:

- Purple fruits called sloes
- Twigs form straight side shoots which turn into thorns
- Leaves are slightly wrinkled and toothed



#### Processing and storage:

- Mash the berries with water to extract and clean the seed
- Once the seed is partially dry it can be stored in a ventilated container and mixed with 50/50 compost/sharp sand
- Store in a cool/dry place and place in the fridge Nov-March. Spray with water if needed

### Crab apple

#### When to collect:

- apples will fall from the tree in October, but they can be picked directly from the tree before this (but not too early)
- If pips are white/green then they are not ripe

#### How to identify:

- Leaves are oval and glossy and have rounded teeth
- Trees can become quite gnarled and twigs and twigs often develop spines



#### Processing and storage:

- Either cut or mash the fruit to extract the seeds
- Once the seed is partially dry it can be stored in a ventilated container and mixed with 50/50 compost/sharp sand
- Store in a cool/dry place and place in the fridge Dec - end of Jan. Spray with water if needed

## Growing trees from seeds

### Spindle

#### When to collect:

- Collect in September/October as the berries turn pink

#### How to identify:

- The leaves are shiny and waxy and have tiny sharp teeth along the edges
- The fruits are bright pink with orange seeds – look a bit like popcorn or baby pumpkins



#### Processing and storage:

- Prise open the fruit with your fingers to remove the seeds. The orange coat shouldn't be removed
- Gently massage the orange coated seed between the flesh of your thumb and fore finger and the orange jacket gradually slides off. Place the small white/pink egg-shaped seed on a dampened paper towel in a cardboard container.
- Once the seed is partially dry it can be stored in a ventilated container and mixed with 50/50 compost/sharp sand
- Store in a cool/dry place and place in the fridge Dec-Feb. Spray with water if needed

#### Resources to look at:

- TCV: Growing trees from seed - <https://treegrowing.tcv.org.uk/grow>
- Tree Council: Growing trees from seed - <https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/seed-gathering-season/growing-trees-from-seed/>
- A-Z of British tree guide: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/>
- Tree planting and aftercare guide - <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/Saving%20Devon%27s%20Treescapes%20Planting%20%20Leaflet.pdf>
- Right Place Right Tree – guidance on where to plant your trees - <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/joint-initiatives/trees-for-devon/right-place-right-tree/>

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Month by month seed guide												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Alder	Store in cool dry place	Store in cool dry place	Soak and dry	Sow seeds						Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Store in cool dry place
Downy and Silver birch	Store in fridge	Store in fridge	Soak and dry	Sow seeds				Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Store in a cool, dry place	Store in a cool, dry place	Store in fridge
Blackthorn	Store in fridge or shady spot	Store in fridge or shady spot	Sow seeds	Sow seeds					Collect seeds	Collect seeds	4 weeks of warmth	Store in fridge or shady spot
Wild Cherry	Store in fridge or shady spot	Store in fridge or shady spot	Sow seeds	Sow seeds			Collect seeds	Store in fridge or shady spot				
Crab Apple	Store in fridge	Sow seeds								Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Store in fridge
Elder	Store in fridge or shady spot	Sow seeds							Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Store in fridge or shady spot
Hawthorn	Store in fridge or shady spot	Store in fridge or shady spot	Sow seeds	Sow seeds						Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Store in fridge or shady spot
Hazel	Store in fridge or shady spot	Remove from fridge but store in a cool, dry place	Store in fridge but store in a cool, dry place	Sow seeds				Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Store in fridge or shady spot	Store in fridge or shady spot
Oak										Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Sow seeds
Rowan	Store in fridge or shady spot	Store in fridge or shady spot	Sow seeds					Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Store in fridge or shady spot	Store in fridge or shady spot
Spindle	Store in fridge	Store in fridge	Sow seeds	Sow seeds						Collect seeds	Collect seeds	Store in a cool, dry place