WHY PLANT URBAN TREES?

**Increase property values** - Trees increase the kerb appeal of residential areas with research finding that house prices are between 5% and 18% higher where property is associated with mature trees.

**Improve air quality** - Trees, woodland and other green infrastructure improve air quality by intercepting harmful particulates which are a contributing factor to respiratory conditions such as asthma.

**Cool our cities and towns** - Trees lose moisture from their leaves and coupled with the shade they cast and the heat reflected upwards from their leaves significantly reduce temperature in towns.

**Reduce the risk of flooding** - Trees reduce surface water runoff, which can overload drainage systems, and lead to flash flooding by around 60% compared with asphalt alone.

**Create wildlife habitats** – Trees in urban areas provide important habitats for British wildlife encouraging biodiversity, with many species relying on woodland cover to survive.

**Aid health & wellbeing** - Trees help us to breathe easier, and play a significant role in improving our health and well-being, reducing stress and encourage us to be more active.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR TREE

Planting a tree can be one of the most rewarding and enduring things we do. It can be done quickly, cheaply and without any specialist tools or materials.
Things to consider when choosing your tree are:

- The space you have for the height, spread of the tree as well as the roots.
- What characteristics do you want e.g. blossom; evergreen, fruit producing.
- The sunlight, soil and moisture your green space provides.
- The reputation of your local nursery and whether they can provide you with advice and guidance.

The right tree for your garden

There is a huge choice of varieties and sizes available from nurseries; and they should be able to advise you on the type and variety that suits your needs.

Some popular small garden trees are:

1. Acer griseum (paperbark maple) - A beautiful small tree with bark flaking and curling back to reveal cinnamon-coloured bark beneath. Rich autumn foliage colour.

2. Crataegus laeviagata ‘Pauls scarlet’ (hawthorn) - a small, rounded deciduous thorny tree with lobed, glossy leaves. Flowers fully double, light red.

3. Betula utilis ‘Jaquemontii’ (Himalayan birch) - a deciduous tree, with brilliant white bark on the trunk and larger branches; ovate leaves turn yellow in autumn; yellow-brown male catkins open in early spring.

4. Amelanchier × grandiflora ‘Ballerina’ AGM - Profuse white spring flowers before the bronze tinted young leaves emerge. Good autumn leaf tints.

5. Crataegus persimilis ‘Prunifolia’ AGM – This has white flowers in June followed by masses of showy bright orange-red fruits. Oval deep green leaves colour richly in autumn.

6. Sorbus ‘Joseph Rock’ AGM – This has white flowers in late spring. Pale yellow fruits mature to amber-yellow are complimented by rich autumn foliage colour of red, orange and purple.

Remember your local nursery should be able to tell you how and where your tree was grown; as well any biosecurity precautions they take in preventing the spread of pest and diseases.

Happy Tree Planting!

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