

Blackthorn

(*Prunus spinosa*)



Blackthorn is suited to heavier soils and scrub areas. It can reach a height of 7m and once mature produces small clusters of flowers before the leaves in early spring. The twig is smooth and dark purple, with side shoots ending in long spines. In autumn, black-purple fruit (sloes) appear. These are sour and can be used to make sloe gin.

Crab Apple

(*Malus sylvestris*)



Crab apple favours heavier soils. Its bark is purplish brown with scaly ridges and it has an average height of 9m. Twigs are green-brown with spurs and spines. The buds on a crab apple tree have downy tips and the yellow-green autumn fruits can be used to make crab apple jelly and wine.

Dog Rose

(*Rosa canina*)



Dog rose is a scrambling shrub suited to hedgerows and woodland edges. It has attractive pink and white flowers during the summer and long arching stems with curved thorns. In autumn it has striking egg-shaped, red 'rose-hips'.

Goat Willow

(*Salix caprea*)



Goat willow is suited to reedbeds, scrub, wet woodland and hedges, growing to 10m. Twigs are grey (thicker than most willows) and can be red yellow in the sun with rounded buds. Bark is grey with diamond-shaped pits. The wide oval leaves have a fine, grey felt underside (unlike the thin leaves of other willows).

Hawthorn

(*Crataegus monogyna*)



Hawthorn tolerates most soils but flower best in full sun. It is a hedgerow shrub, reaching a height of 12-15m. Twigs are slender and brown with thorns and bark is brown with shallow scaling ridges. The leaves appear before the flowers which follow in May/June. Red berries replace them from late August.

Hazel

(*Corylus avellana*)



Hazel grows well in most conditions except water logged or poor soils. Twigs are pale green-brown and covered with long hairs. Young bark appears bronze, turning pale brown with shallow ridges as the tree ages. Catkins appear from late winter with hazelnuts following in early autumn. If unmanaged, trees will grow to 12-15m.

Rowan

(*Sorbus aucuparia*)



Rowan grows well in light acidic soils, reaching an average height of 15m. Twigs are slender and purple-grey with purple hairy buds. Bark is greyish silver with dark horizontal markings. Clusters of white flowers appear in late spring with orange-scarlet berries in autumn. Leaves have 15 serrated leaflets arranged in pairs with a single leaf at the tip.