



THE MERL GARDEN TREE TRAIL

Follow the trail of the trees in the MERL garden and learn their names.



Tree names

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|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Hazel | 7. White Ash | 14. Holm Oak |
| 2. Sweetgum | 8. Copper beech | 15. Elder |
| 3. Black Mulberry | 9. Walnut | 16. Crab Apple |
| 4. Big Shell Hickory | 10. Maidenhair Tree | 17. Rowan |
| 5. Great White Cherry | 11. Small Leaf Lime | 18. Apple |
| 6. Common Ash | 12. Atlas Blue Cedar | 19. Bay |
| | 13. Hazel Coppice | 20. Hazel |

A Shepherd Hut

B Tractor

C Chicken Hut

D Solitary Bee Hotel

E The MERL Bee Meadow

Gazebo

Trees

Paths/Gravel

Woodland path

Hedge

Community Growers' Beds

Herbaceous Boarder

H Herb beds

Lavender Hedge

Plant beds

Meadow

1) Purple Leaved Filbert *Corylus maxima 'Purpurea'*
Native to Europe and southwestern Asia. It has lovely plum coloured catkins in early spring followed by edible filbert nuts (similar to hazelnuts but having a more edible husk). See also *Corylus avellana*, no.13.

2) Sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua*
Native to east and south USA. This tree has superb autumn colour although rarely fruits in the UK. Its resin has been used as chewing gum.

3) Black Mulberry *Morus nigra*
Native to west Asia the Black Mulberry produces purple fruit in mid-summer. This tree is probably over 100 years old. Mulberries have been planted in the UK since Roman times and were prized for their delicious fruit.

4) Big Shellbark Hickory *Carya laciniosa*
Native to the USA, from New York to Oklahoma. It makes a durable carpentry wood, particularly useful for tool handles. Produces edible nuts. This is a rare tree and the star of The MERL Garden this specimen is grafted onto an established root stock.

5) Great White Cherry *Prunus serrulata* 'Tai Haku'.
Native to Japan. This tree was thought to be extinct until a chance discovery in a Sussex garden in the 1920's. All 'Tai Haku' trees descend from this single specimen. This tree produces stunning white blossom in April and May.

6) Common Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*
Native to the UK. Like the Hickory (4), produces wood prized for tool handles (and witches' broom handles, reputedly). The MERL tree shows no signs of Ash dieback disease, which has been a problem in the UK for several years.

7) White Ash *Fraxinus americana*
Native to eastern, central and north America. Like the Common Ash the wood is typically used for tool handles.

8) Copper Beech *Fagus sylvatica 'purpurea'*
Native to southern England. A red-leaved variety of the common beech, widely planted as an ornamental.

9) Walnut *Juglans regia*
Native to Caucasus and the Himalayas. Fragrant foliage and edible nuts. The nut shells have been used to make inks and dyes. The timber is highly prized in furniture making for its decorative grain.

10) Maidenhair tree *Ginkgo biloba*
Native to China, but not found in the wild, the Maidenhair tree has been preserved in Chinese and Japanese temple gardens. The only surviving species of the order Ginkgoales and described by Darwin as a living fossil.

11) Small Leaf Lime *Tilia cordata*
Native to the UK. Produces fragrant flowers in July. 'Lime' is derived from the word 'Line' as the bark fibres were formerly used to make string.

12) Atlas Blue Cedar *Cedrus atlantica*
Native to Asia Minor and North Africa. An evergreen conifer with blue-grey needles. The oils found in the Cedar act as a natural repellent to moths and Cedar wood has commonly been used to line chests and wardrobes.

13) Hazel Coppice *Corylus avellana*
Native to Europe, north Africa and western Asia. The Hazel is thought to be a magical tree and a Hazel rod is thought to protect the owner from evil spirits. The MERL Hazel is often coppiced and used for pea and bean supports.

14) Holm Oak *Quercus ilex*
Native to the Mediterranean. This evergreen was introduced to the UK in the 1500's and in contrast to the Native Oak the leaves of the Holm Oak are more similar to Holly.

15) Elder *Sambucus nigra*
Native to the UK. Both the flowers and berries can be used to make wines and cordials. The berries may also be used to make jam, jelly and chutney.

16) Crab apple *Malus Sylvestris*
Native to the UK. Intensely sour fruit, though the pressed juice, known as verjuice, has been used in cookery and folk medicine.

16) Rowan *Scorbus aucuparia*
Native to the UK. The Rowan has a mystical history, fighting evil. It has creamy white flowers and produces red Berries in the Autumn. A variety of wildlife feed on its leaves and berries throughout the year.

18) Apple *Malus pumila* various cultivars
Probably originated in central Asia. These varieties are Bramley Seedling and Cox's Orange Pippin. The health benefits of eating an apple a day are well known. It is less well known that the bark of the apple tree can be used as natural yellow dye.

19) Bay *Laurus nobilis*
Native to the Mediterranean. An evergreen tree, grown for its aromatic leaves of which are commonly used in cooking.

20) Hazel *Corylus avellana*
Hazel is often coppiced, its wood is used for thatching spars, hurdles and furniture. Its leaves, flowers and nuts are an important food source for wildlife.