



BIODIVERSITY WEEK

PLANTS OF THE DAY

OAK, HAZEL, BIRCH, ROWAN AND HAWTHORNE TREES



- Ireland has a mix of Native and Non Native trees. A native tree is one that arrived itself in Ireland after the last Ice Age! Non Native Trees are ones that were introduced by humans more recently.
- 5 common native trees are Oak, Hazel, Birch, Rowan (AKA Mountain Ash) and Hawthorne.
- 11% of Ireland is covered in Trees. This is much lower than the average of 33% in many European countries. Only 2% of Ireland is covered by Native Trees!
- The most common tree in Ireland is Sitka Spruce. This is a Non Native Tree but it is often planted for forestry to be used for making many of the products we use every day.
- There are many benefits to trees including providing homes and food to wildlife, storing carbon, preventing flooding, keeping the area cool, providing us with food, medicines and products. Native trees are especially important for supporting other wildlife.
- Oak trees can support hundreds of animals, from insects living under the bark or in the leaves to squirrels feeding on their acorns to birds building their nests in their branches.

Check out some of the activities that may suit your class below!

Junior Videos	Indoor Activities	Outdoor Activities
Watch these 1 minute videos on Birch , Rowan and Hawthorn .	Try our interactive quiz on Native Trees.	Go on a nature walk around your school grounds and see what trees you can spot .
For a longer attention span try Oak Trees and Hazel Trees in these 8 minute videos!	Discover how many things there are in your classroom made from trees!	Investigate what bugs are living in a tree on your school grounds. Watch this video to learn how.
Tree Communication . How do trees pass messages to each other!	Learn more about some of our Native Trees with these Species Cards .	Make some natural art with leaves and twigs. Try creating an animal or even a face !