

# **National Tree Week March 2nd-8th 2008**

## **Trees Water Life**

**The aim of National Tree Week is to raise awareness about trees and encourage local communities and local authorities to participate in over 300 events which will take place around the country during the week**

Every year we select a theme and for 2008 the theme is 'trees water life'. Water is the substance that makes our planet unique within our solar system. It is the source of all life. Without water, life as we know it could not exist. From single cell organisms to the largest plants, water is the common ingredient. Mature trees, the largest plants on the globe, have an added relationship with water that many lesser plants do not have.

Trees and woodlands rich in diversity play an important role in protecting our waterways. They filter out solids and absorb excessive nutrients, purifying water before it flows into streams and rivers, and helping to make it suitable for drinking. Forests also act like massive sponges, soaking up excessive rainfall and releasing it into waterways slowly over time, thereby helping to prevent flooding in villages and towns downstream.

Carefully designed woodlands along streams, rivers and lakes can also benefit fish and other forms of life in the water, providing food and cooling shade. Also, many of our well-known native trees, such as alder and willow, are closely associated with streams, rivers and lakes, forming an important part of our inland waterway heritage and landscape.

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# Tree Register of Ireland (TROI) Clár Crann na hÉireann

## *Top 25 trees in county Clare*

- Cartanea sativa** (Sweet/Spanish Chestnut) Bunratty House, Bunratty:9.30 @ 1.5 m × 16m.
- Quercus robur** (English/Common Oak) Oak House, Mountshannon:8.79 @ 0.7 m × 32m.
- Quercus robur** (English/Common Oak) Raheen Woods, Tuamagraney: 7.85 @ 1 m × 25m.
- Quercus robur** (English/Common Oak) Woodpark Golf Club, Mountshannon:7.45 @ 1.5 m×15 m.
- Cryptomeria japonica** (Japanese Red Cedar) Caher House, Caher:7.06 @ 0.5 m × 30 m.
- Quercus robur** (English/Common Oak) Clarisford, Moys, Killaloe:7.06 @ 1.5 m × 21.50 m.
- Castanea sativa** (Sweet/Spanish Chestnut) Bunratty House, Bunratty:6.20 @ 1 m × 21.50 m.
- Sequoiadendron giganteum** (Wellingtonia,Giant Sequoia)Caher House, Caher:5.54 @1.25 m× 27
- Taxus baccata** (Yew) Woodpark, Mountshannon:4.47 @ 0.1 m × 16 m.
- Pinus sylvestris** (Scot's Pine) Clarisford, Moys, Killaloe:4.46 @ 0.7 m × 19.50 m.
- Pinus sylvestris** (Scot's Pine) Clarisford, Moys, Killaloe:4.28 @ 0.7 m × 19 m.
- Abies procera Glauca Group** (Noble Fir) Caher House, Caher:4.27 @ 1.5 m × 39 m.
- Alnus glutinosa** (Alder) *Cloonamarin, Mountshannon*:4.05 @ 1.5 m × 14 m
- Abies procera Glauca Group** (Noble Fir) *Tinarana Lough Derg*: 3.87 @ 1.5 m × 28.50 m.
- \*\* Picea sitchensis** (Sitka Spruce) Caher House, Caher: 3.79 @ 1.5 m × 42 m.
- Platanus orientalis** (Oriental Plane) Clarisford, Moys, Killaloe: 3.72 @ 1.5 m × 19 m.
- Pinus sylvestris** (Scot's Pine) Clarisford, Moys, Killaloe: 3.61 @ 0.7 m × 20 m.
- Eucalyptus gunnii** (Cider Gum) Clarisford, Moys, Killaloe: 2.85 @ 1.2 m × 24 m.
- Quercus suber** (Cork Oak) Woodpark Golf Club, Mountshannon: 2.65 @ 1.5 m × 7 m.
- Araucaria araucana** (Monkey Puzzle) Clarisford, Moys, Killaloe: 2.63 @ 1.5 m × 19.30 m.
- Podocarpus salignus** (Willow Podocarp) Caher House, Caher: 2.56 @ 1.1 m × 17.50 m.
- Athrotaxis selaginoides** (King William Pine) Caher House, Caher: 2.18 @ 1.5 m × 12.80 m.
- Prunus laurocerasus** (*Cherry Laurel*) Caher House, Caher: 2.18 @ 1.5 m × 11 m.
- Ulmus glabra** (Wych Elm) Caher House, Caher: 2.05 @ 1.5 m × 19 m.
- Tilia 'Petiolaris'** (Silver Pendent Lime) Caher House, Caher: 1.92 @ 1.5 m × 16 m.

## ***Top 25 trees in county Galway***

- Castanea sativa*** (Sweet/Spanish Chestnut) Clonbrook, Ballinasloe: 9.19 @ 1.4 m × 17 m.
- Fagus sylvatica*** (Beech) Gort na mona, Ballinsloe: 7.37 @ 1.5 m × 26.50 m.
- Platanus orientalis*** (Oriental Plane) Coolepark: 6.68 @ 1 m × 23 m.
- Abies alba*** (Silver Fir) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 5.91 @ 0.3 m × 33 m.
- Quercus robur*** (English/Common Oak) Clonbrook, Ballinasloe: 5.73 @ 1.5 m × 27 m.
- \*\* *Picea sitchensis*** (Sitka Spruce) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 5.45 @ 1.5 m × 44 m.
- Castanea sativa*** (Sweet/Spanish Chestnut) Clonbrook, Ballinasloe: 4.92 @ 1.5 m × 23.50 m.
- Abies alba*** (Silver Fir) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 4.86 @ 1.5 m × 39 m.
- Abies nordmanniana*** (Caucasian Fir) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 4.02 @ 1.5 m × 34.50 m.
- Taxus baccata*** (Yew) Gort na mona, Ballinsloe: 3.83 @ 0.9 m × 13 m.
- Abies grandis*** (Grand Fir) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 3.75 @ 1.5 m × 31.50 m.
- Larix decidua*** (European Larch) Clonbrook, Ballinasloe: 3.67 @ 1.5 m × 30.50 m.
- Thuja plicata*** (Western Red Cedar) Clonbroek, Ballinasloe: 3.65 @ 1.5 m × 26 m.
- Juglans regia*** (Walnut) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 3.44 @ 1.5 m × 17.80 m.
- Abies procera*** Glauca Group (Noble Fir) Clonbrook, Ballinasloe: 3 @ 1.5 m × 33 m.
- Picea orientalis*** (Oriental Spruce) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 2.95 @ 1.5 m × 29 m.
- Abies procera*** Glauca Group (Noble Fir) Clonbrook, Ballinasloe: 2.73 @ 1.5 m × 35.50 m.
- Cordyline australis*** (Cabbage Palm) Kylemore Abbey: 2.52 @ 1.5 m × 10.70 m.
- Quercus suber*** (Cork Oak) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 1.99 @ 1.5 m × 16.50 m.
- Catalpa bignonioides*** (Indian Bean Tree) Coolepark: 1.97 @ 1.5 m × 9 m.
- Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*** 'Pendula' (Nootka Cypress) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 1.86 @ 1.5 m × 23.70 m.
- Cordyline australis*** (Cabbage Palm) Kylemore Abbey: 1.79 @ 1.5 m × 9.50 m.
- Podocarpus salignus*** (Willow Podocarp) Ashford Castle Hotel, Cong: 1.19 @ 1.5 m × 15 m.
- Juniperus chinensis*** 'Aurea' (Chinese Juniper) Clonbrook, Ballinasloe: 0.99 @ 1.5 m × 6 m.

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**Tree Council of Ireland, The Park, Cabinteely, Dublin 18.**

**TROI was set up in 1999 to compile a comprehensive database of remarkable trees in Ireland. The database now contains details of over 5,000 trees, many of which are national or county champions. Trees can be remarkable for many reasons: their height, diameter, age and for their historical and folklore associations.**

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## **Clare**

### **School Planting**

**Venue:** Kilmurry National School, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare

**Org:** Coillte & Kilmurry National School

**Date:** To be confirmed

**Contact:** Christy O'Dea

**Tel:** 061 921 1201

## **Galway**

### **Wattle & Hazel Fencing by Mark Wilson**

*The Day will include sourcing and harvesting of hazel and willow, splitting hazel, weaving willow and using traditional tools*

**Venue:** An Gairdin Ecology Centre, St Brigid's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway

**Org:** An Gairdin Ecology Centre

**Date:** Thursday 6 March

**Time:** 10am to 4.30pm

**Contact:** Noreen Lyons

**Tel:** 090 9741689

## **Tree Planting**

To maintain the environmental quality of our towns and countryside we need to plant more trees to replace those lost through old age, urban development and changes in agricultural practices. The following suggestions show how trees can be properly planted and maintained in order to grow into healthy specimens.

Suitable sites for tree planting include open spaces in housing areas, land around car parks, churches, schools, supermarkets, factories, town dumps and eyesores, and along streets and roads.

### **WHAT TO PLANT**

Once a site has been selected for tree planting, the most suitable species for planting on it must be chosen. The choice of species should be based upon the following considerations:

The suitability of different species for the physical conditions of the site - soil type, drainage, exposure, etc.

The suitability of different species for the use and size of the site - there must be enough space for trees to develop without pruning. Some trees may not be suitable for certain situations - trees with large leaves may make roads and pavements slippery.

### **The suitability of different species in the landscape**

Knowledge of those trees that grow well in the area, on similar sites, is a useful guide to what to plant. This ensures that new trees blend with the landscape and have a better chance of surviving with minimal maintenance. In a rural setting ornamental garden trees and shrubs should be avoided as they look incongruous.

*Sizes of trees usually available are:*

**forestry transplants** - 0.5m in height;

**whips** - single stem to 1m in height;

Both these sizes are suitable for rural areas.

**nursery stock** - to 2.5m in height, recommended for general amenity planting and obtained as standards (with clear stems) or 'feathered' (branches to ground level).

Where vandalism may be a problem, the larger size of trees known as 'heavy standard' nursery stock should be planted, with the added protection of a tree guard and a stake extending into the crown of the tree, to which the leading shoot is tied.

### **WHEN TO PLANT**

Planting is carried out when the trees are dormant, from November to March, but not when the soil is frozen or waterlogged. Evergreens are best planted in September or from late April to early May. Container-grown trees can be planted throughout the year, but they should be kept well watered after planting.

### **HOW TO PLANT**

The following directions cover the planting of nursery standards:

Keep the roots of bare-rooted trees moist, while awaiting planting, in a polythene sack or loosely dug to a trench with the roots covered by earth.

Prepare the tree pit before trees are delivered to the site. It should allow good clearance for the roots and should be at least 600mm (2ft) wider and 150mm (6in) deeper than the root system. The bottom of the pit should be forked over to break up the subsoil.

Drive tree stakes slightly off-centre into the bottom of the pit. Stakes should be about 2400mm (8ft) long and should be treated with a wood preservative other than creosote to not less than 150mm (6in) above soil level.

Remove any containers from the roots. Cut back broken roots to sound growth. Place the tree on the side of the stake away from the prevailing wind. Plant the tree at its original soil depth as shown by the discolouration at the base of the trunk. Backfill with good quality topsoil or a mixture of 7 parts topsoil, 3 parts peat, 2 parts sand and 200g (7oz) fertiliser (in the ratio of 10N:10P:10K). Fine soil should be placed around the roots and the tree gently shaken to fill any air pockets. Soil should be firmed layer by layer taking care not to damage the roots.

Secure the tree to the stake with a tree-tie just below the lowest branch and also just above ground level. If proprietary tree-ties are not available, ties can be made by inserting stout galvanised wire through a length of rubber hosing, twisting it around the tree and nailing it to the stake.

Water the tree after planting, using at least 22 litres (5 gallons) of water per tree. Mulch the area around the tree after watering, with a 100mm (4in) depth of farmyard manure, garden compost or leaf mould.

If using a tree guard, wrap it around the tree and secure it to a stake, making sure it does not chafe the lower branches. A gap should be left between the base of the guard and the ground so that rubbish and weeds can be cleaned out.

#### **MAINTENANCE**

It is important to consider the level of maintenance that is available before a tree planting scheme is devised. There is little point in embarking on an ambitious planting programme if there are no maintenance skills available to see the scheme through to fruition. A maintenance programme should be followed for at least the first two growing seasons after planting and it can be based on the following checklist.

Tree stakes and ties should be checked regularly. Loose stakes should be firmed and broken ties replaced as soon as possible, otherwise chafing of the bark and looseness at the roots will cause permanent damage to the tree.

Weeds and rubbish around the base of the trees should be cleared regularly.

A fertiliser should be forked in around the trees in their second season of growth or if their growth appears to be checked during the first season after planting. Proprietary tree and shrub fertilisers can be used or any of the general agricultural fertilisers without high nitrogen content.

Watering should be carried out regularly during the first two growing seasons. There is often a dry period from late May to June and many newly planted trees die at this time through inadequate watering. During dry weather the soil around young trees should be soaked thoroughly at least every week with about 22 litres of water per tree, with the soil lightly pricked over to reduce subsequent evaporation, or else mulched with peat, bark chippings or manure.

Broken branches should be cut back to a strong shoot or to the main trunk and the wound should be painted with a sealing compound, such as Arbrex.

Any dead or vandalised trees should be replaced at the end of the growing season. Vandalism is discouraged if the planting has the appearance of being well-maintained and if damaged trees are always replaced.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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**An Taisce**, Tailors Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8. Tel: (01) 454 1786 Fax: (01) 453 3255

**Teagasc**, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. Tel: (053) 42622

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