



English Oak

Quercus robur

The oak is a common symbol of strength and endurance. Oak trees support more life forms than any other native trees. The acorns are a rich food source for jays, mice and squirrels. As well as English oak trees we have a Red Oak *Quercus rubra* standing in the centre of the middle paddock.



Field Maple

Acer campestre

Field maple is the UK's only native maple tree. We have many in our hedgerows at the farm and a large tree in the corner of the wildlife garden. The tree grows slowly after the first few years, and takes 50 or so to reach maturity; mature trees can live for up to 350 years.



Rowan or Mountain Ash

Sorbus aucuparia

Rowan trees surround our community gardens and are stunning in autumn when hung with bright orange berries. The rowan has a long tradition in European mythology and folklore: it was thought to be a magical tree and give protection against malevolent beings.



Hazel

Corylus avellana

The hedgerows around the farm are full of "coppiced" hazel where the tree has been cut down to encourage multiple new stems. The long straight stems are very useful for gardeners for bean canes and tool handles. The yellow catkins appear before leaves in early spring and hazelnuts ripen in Autumn.

Our Trees

See how many you can find!



Our Trees



Windmill Hill City Farm



Golden Weeping Willow

Salix x sepulcralis 'Chrysocoma'

Our magnificent weeping willow stands at the heart of the farmyard. Willow's fast growth and flexibility makes it a useful plant for living structures: we have a willow archway into the community gardens. Willow has many uses, from baskets and flutes to cricket bats and medicine.



Silver Birch

Betula pendula

There are many silver birch trees throughout our gardens, distinguished by their white papery bark. The silver birch is a pioneer species: one of the first to appear on bare or fire-swept land. Many bird animal species are found in birch woodland and the tree supports a wide range of insects.



Common Lime

Tilia x europaea

You will find lime trees around the paddocks and wooded areas of the farm. (No relation to the citrus fruit tree!) Tilia leaves are heart-shaped, and the tree has fragrant blossom and very small balloon shaped seed cases. Lime blossom is used as a medicinal herb for colds, headaches and as a sedative.



Monterey Cypress

Cupressus macrocarpa

This evergreen tree is a native tree of California, where it can grow to a height of 40 meters. We have one very large Monterey Cypress in the corner of the community gardens, planted as a boundary marker in the very early days of the city farm.



Pear

Pyrus communis

Pear trees have been grown throughout much of Britain since 995 and many cultivars now exist. The fruits begin as a narrow cylinder and broaden out, creating the well-known 'pear shape'. Pear trees can live up to 250 years and are considered a symbol of immortality.



Medlar

Mespilus germanica

A tree with large white blossom in spring and unusually shaped fruits in autumn. There is a myth the fruit needs to rot before eating but this is actually a process called "bletting", when cold temperatures soften the medlar's tartness to sugars. The fruit can then be eaten raw or cooked.



Apple

Malus domestica

Apple is a deciduous tree, grown worldwide for its fruit. There are over 7,500 cultivated varieties! At the farm we grow apple trees of all shapes and sizes, including the trained 'espalier' apple trees around the picnic area in the community garden.



Cherry

Prunus species

You can find examples of ornamental cherry in our front garden, wild cherry around the community gardens and edible cherry in our picnic area. Cherry trees have distinctive striped bark and showy spring blossom. Cultivated varieties of the wild cherry, *Prunus avium*, have been bred for edible fruit.



Ash

Fraxinus excelsior

Many ash trees grow around the farm including a stand of 5 in the community gardens. They can be identified by smooth twigs with black leaf buds, composite leaves and winged bunches of seeds. The timber is one of the toughest hardwoods and is used for tools, sport handles and furniture.



Norway Maple

Acer platanoides

We have a stand of Norway maple along the edge of the farmyard behind the barn. This native of northern Europe was introduced to Britain in the 1600s. It is a popular choice for urban streets and parks thanks to its tall trunk and its tolerance of pollution and compacted soils.



White Poplar

Populus alba

Several large white poplar grow on the farm boundaries, including one multi-stemmed tree in the woodland walk. The tree has a white appearance, especially on a windy day, with white twigs, and leaves white on the underside. The bark is pale grey with black diamond-shaped markings.



Hawthorn or May Flower

Crateagus monogyna

There are hawthorn trees and hedgerows across the whole farm. The tree's common names come from the frothy white blossom that appear in May; the thorny stems; and the deep red berries or 'haws' that appear in late summer and stay through autumn and winter.

