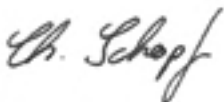


55 Years Is 55 Years

Reflections on Time by Christian Schopf

Time lives in the garden. Yesterday – today – tomorrow: nowhere else do we experience the seasons and the passing years as vividly as we do here. Time to pause – the garden has become a cherished retreat for us. Never before has living in harmony with nature mattered so much to so many people. At the same time, the desire to protect and preserve nature – and to give something back to it – continues to grow. We at Schopf Nursery have been by your side on this journey for 55 years now.

Think plants. Think Schopf. That is and will remain our core mission. We love plants and want to inspire others to discover their extraordinary diversity. As gardeners, we create living works of art. For my team and me, there is no greater inspiration – and no more rewarding challenge – than bringing your vision to life in a garden that is uniquely yours. At Schopf Nursery Gardens, we want to create a place where you can linger, enjoy the moment and be inspired. Our themed gardens and Café Flora are well worth a visit. Here, we treat you to homemade cakes, live music and informative garden talks. In our new Future Garden and Nature Garden, we focus on climate-resilient plant ranges that support biodiversity. They show us the way forward. A future in which biodiversity, our climate and nature-friendly gardening will become increasingly important. A future in which we hope to be there for you for another 55 years, bringing your ideas for plants and gardens to life.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ch. Schopf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.



Our Story - Since 1971

For 55 years, horticultural knowledge and craftsmanship have been passed down through three generations at Schopf Garden Center. This is reflected in the quality of our plants and our eye for garden design.

Our company was founded in 1971 by Betty and Hermann Schopf. In July 2010, their son Christian Schopf took over the company and has run it together with his wife, Carola Schopf, ever since. The expertise, experience and enthusiasm of our dedicated team continue to drive the company's success. Passion and a steadily growing team have made the company what it is today.

Our Vision

Plants are who we are. We excel at creating imaginative, individualized designs for your garden. Our aim is to create lasting gardens that stand the test of time.

Across 10 hectares, we grow everything from hedging plants to native standard trees. Since 2018, we have been growing an increasing number of adaptable, climate-resilient trees.

Ginkgo biloba

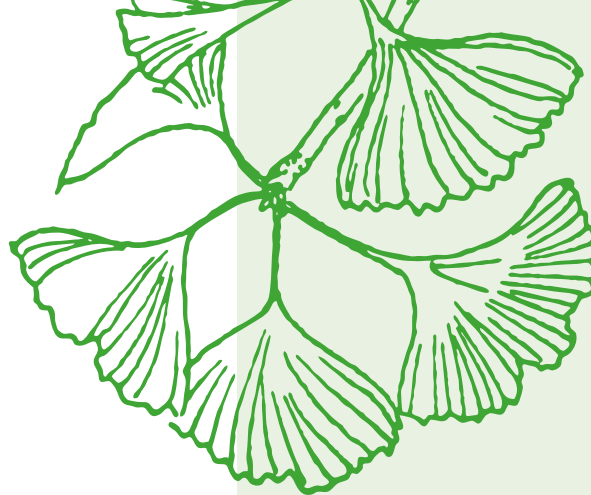
The ginkgo is our company emblem and a true hero among plants – although it is neither a broadleaf tree nor a conifer, it has survived ice ages, dinosaurs and even nuclear attacks. This living fossil can live for up to 1,000 years!

Goethe, too, wrote about the ginkgo, whose name, Ginkgo biloba, is derived from Chinese. The alternative names silver apricot (Yin Hsing) and duck's foot (Yao chio) never caught on, and the tree has been known here as the ginkgo for more than 200 years.

The ginkgo was first mentioned in Europe by Engelbert Kaempfer, who encountered it in Japan in 1690 and described it in his 1712 work as “a nut-bearing tree with foliage resembling maidenhair fern.” Initially classified as a conifer, the tree has foliage more reminiscent of a deciduous tree. The leaves on the long shoots have wedge-shaped blades with irregularly lobed upper margins and are split into two lobes.

On the short shoots, the leaves are arranged in rosettes; their fan-shaped blades have almost entire margins and no cleft. All the leaves share a delicate, almost parallel pattern of veins, with no midrib or cross-veins. Initially, only male trees were found in Europe. It was not until 1844 that a female tree was discovered near Geneva, making it possible to harvest the first ginkgo seeds in France.

In 1796, one of Germany's first ginkgo trees was planted in the grounds of Dyck Castle, home to the Prince of Salm-Reifferscheidt on the Lower Rhine. It grew into a magnificent specimen before being destroyed by a storm in 1985.



One of Japan's most famous ginkgo trees stands in Nigatake, where it has been protected as a designated national natural monument since 1926. Standing 32 meters tall, with a trunk circumference of 7.7 meters and a remarkable crown spanning 290 square meters, it may not be Japan's largest ginkgo, but it is particularly renowned for its numerous chichi. These aerial root-like growths extend vertically downward and were once regarded as symbols of fertility because their shape resembles a woman's breast. For this reason, women hoping to conceive often visited the Shinto shrine beneath the tree.

Plant Profile

 **Growing conditions**
Highly adaptable; thrives in sun to partial shade and deep, loamy, nutrient-rich soil

 **Leaves**
Fan-shaped and green, turning golden yellow in fall

 **Symbolism**
Older ginkgo trees develop long growths known as chichi, which symbolize fertility.

 **Medicinal properties**
Medicinal properties Ginkgo is said to improve memory.

 **Care**
Little pruning is required. Protect young trees from frost with reed matting; ginkgo also benefits from a layer of mulch.

 **Flowers**
Rather inconspicuous, appearing in March and April

 **Growth habit**
Slender and upright; up to 40 meters tall, with a conical crown that broadens with age

 **Special feature**
Female ginkgo trees bear fruit; the nuts are a popular food in Asia.

The ginkgo family originated during the Permian period 250 million years ago. They evolved primarily from the Jurassic into the Early Cretaceous, around 150 million years ago, making the ginkgo perhaps the oldest living plant species on Earth.

In China, the ginkgo was first mentioned in herbal books during the Yuan dynasty (1280–1368). It was believed to relieve urinary urgency, coughs and hoarseness, although its fruit was considered particularly toxic to children. In Japan, it is used to treat tuberculosis, while in Europe it is also valued as a medicinal plant. Extracts made from its leaves are believed to help improve circulation. Its active compounds are also believed to improve memory.

The drupe-like seeds, often referred to as fruit, are still eaten in Japan and China today. They are removed from their seed coats and heated until they take on a greenish color. Their flavor is somewhat reminiscent of roasted chestnuts.

The ginkgo is remarkably undemanding and highly popular in urban areas, where it thrives despite often challenging conditions. Except when young, it is frost-hardy, has no special soil or site requirements and is not susceptible to pests. However, its “fruit” gives off a strong odor when it ripens in fall, which is why mostly male trees are planted along roadsides. Distinguishing between male and female trees is not easy, however. Female trees are said to have broader crowns, while male trees supposedly leaf out earlier and shed their leaves sooner – but these signs are not entirely reliable. Its brilliant yellow fall color is also impressive, inspiring wonder year after year.





In my garden's care and favor
From the East this tree's leaf shows
Secret sense for us to savor
And uplifts the one who knows.

Is it but one being single which as
Same itself divides? Are there two
Which choose to mingle
So that each as one now hides?

As the answer to such question
I have found a sense that's true:
Is it not my songs' suggestion
That I'm one and also two?



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
1815
(trans. John Whaley, 1975)



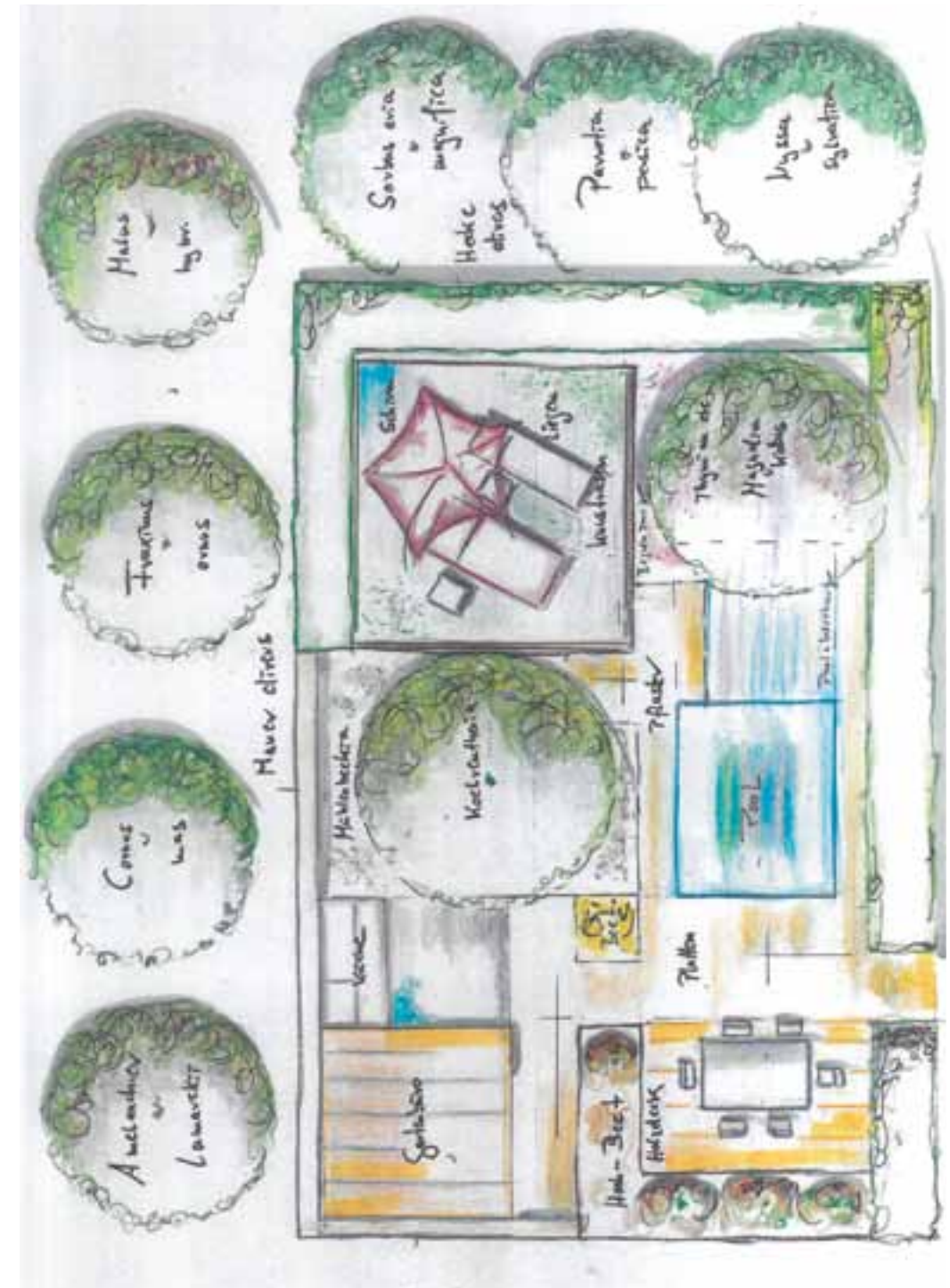
Growing Strong into the Future

We want to preserve the rich diversity of our gardens. At Schopf Nursery Gardens, we offer an exceptional selection of trees, shrubs and flowers.

Climate change is visible all around us – winters are becoming milder, summers hotter, prolonged dry spells more common, and extreme weather events such as torrential rain are occurring with increasing frequency. Trees and shrubs that can cope well with extreme growing conditions and a changing climate are known as climate-resilient plants. Climate change will reshape the range of plants we grow. We are continually working to offer you climate-resilient plants that have proven to be healthy and robust.

Columnar hornbeams and elms thrive exceptionally well in gardens. Mulberries and crabapples cope well with dry spells and attract birds and insects. Other excellent choices include the slow-growing sweetgum with its spectacular fall color; the stately ginkgo; classics such as plane trees, Turkey oaks and sessile oaks; and flowering trees that attract birds, such as cornelian cherry, Lavallée hawthorn, tulip tree and magnolia. All are equally suitable for public spaces and home gardens. The golden rain tree stands out for its beautiful umbrella-shaped crown. The Persian ironwood, meanwhile, captivates with its spectacular fall color. The willow-leaved pear is another small tree with a picturesque growth habit and attractive fruit. Another eye-catcher is the seven-son flower, with its beautiful flower clusters, attractive fruit and nectar that bees love.

We look forward to continuing to support you with our expertise in all things green over the next 55 years. To inspire you, we have created a Future Garden.



Nature Is More Popular Than Ever

The fast pace of modern life and advancing digitalization pose growing challenges. As a counterbalance, people are increasingly seeking authentic experiences in the natural world. We want to do our part and inspire our customers with our multifaceted Nature Garden concept. After all, gardens have the potential to provide a shared habitat for people and wildlife. In our Nature Garden, a 300-square-meter nursery production area was densely planted with 300 perennial species, 50 shrub species and 10 tree species. By using native species, we have created a low-maintenance, naturalistic garden that offers an abundance of resources for wildlife and people alike. A lizard hotel, a sand habitat for wild bees, a butterfly spiral and many other wildlife shelters inspire our visitors to recreate these features in their own gardens. The stylish bird tower, inspired by the work of artist Tom Hare, adds an artistic flourish to the garden. Another visual highlight is the Nature Garden House, with its organically curved, fully planted roof. Built in the style of a hobbit home, it serves as a peaceful, meditative retreat. Raised beds for year-round growing, a sunken garden with a fire pit and numerous places to relax make the Nature Garden an inviting place for visitors to use, explore and enjoy.

We hope this Nature Garden will lay the foundation for further projects with BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) and other regional conservation organizations. At Schopf, we want to help strengthen the connection between people and nature for the long term – today and over the next 55 years.



Gateways to New Garden Worlds

A path lined with red torii gates winds through our Garden of Forms, inviting visitors to step deliberately onto a new path. For centuries, torii gates have marked the transition from the everyday world to a sacred place in Japanese culture. Standing at the entrances to Shinto shrines, they symbolize not only a physical boundary but also a shift in perspective: Passing through a torii gate allows you to leave everyday life behind for a moment and open yourself to tranquility, nature and mindfulness.

The Torii Path was created in 2021 as part of our Cherry Blossom Festival. It is an invitation to explore the garden with fresh eyes, gather inspiration for your own surroundings and experience the connection between people, nature and design anew each time. Leave the everyday world behind and step through ten monumental torii gates into our world of garden experiences.

At our nursery, people can pause, marvel and recharge. Here, every visitor is invited to see plants as more than mere design elements – as living companions that allow us to experience the seasons, growth and change.

A visit is well worth the journey – a chance to see nature and your own garden through fresh eyes.

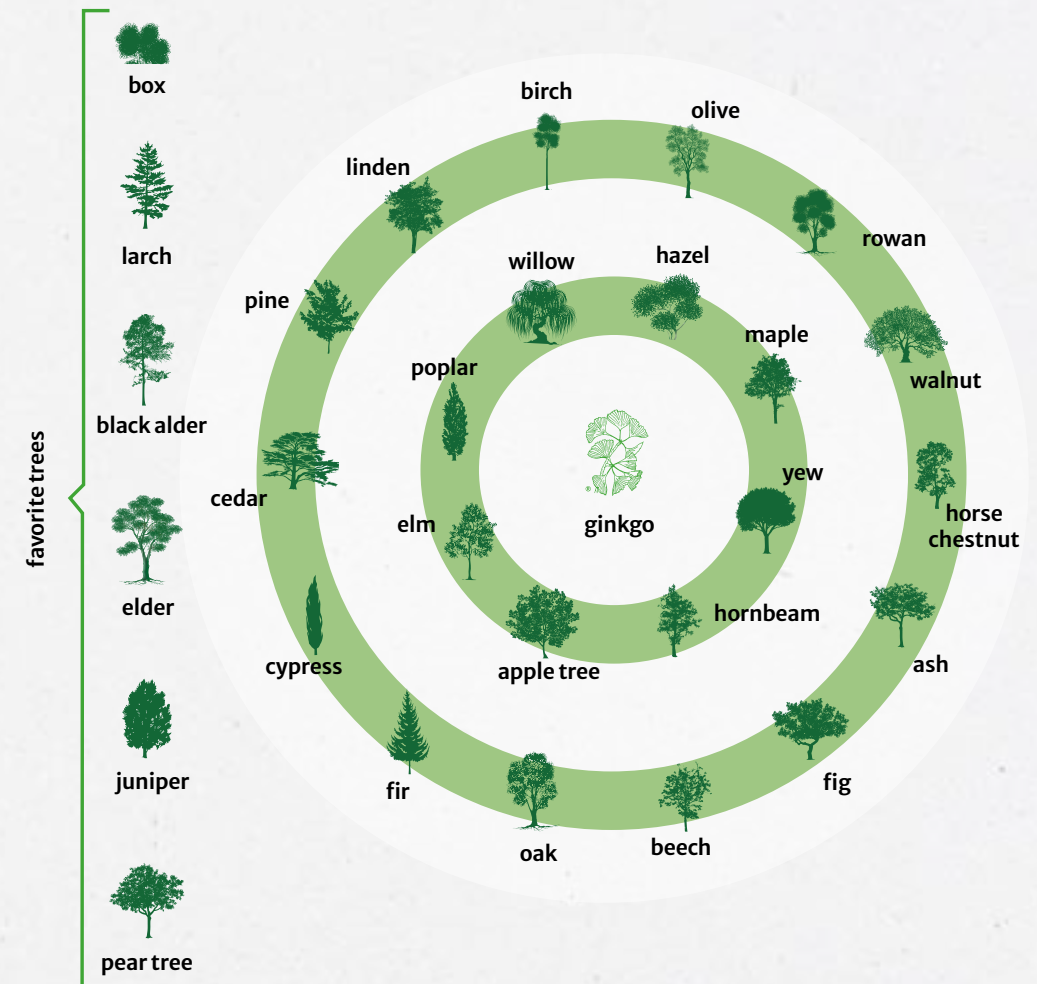


Trees in Myth – Past and Present

Standing tall between heaven and earth, allied with us and akin to us – this is how people throughout the ages have regarded trees. It is hardly surprising, for their cycle of growth, life and decline, their constant striving to grow and blossom, perfectly reflects our own vision of a fulfilled life. For centuries, trees have been inseparable companions to humankind. Sadly, however, our understanding of nature – the ability to hear its quiet, unseen voice – is steadily fading. The Celts, in particular, had a profound understanding of trees. They regarded them as sacred beings and planted them in carefully ordered tree circles.

The Celts divided the year into 39 periods, each associated with one of 22 different trees. Four of these are known as the seasonal trees, marking the beginning of each new season. At the entrance to the tree circles, a further six trees were planted. This brings the total to 28 trees – the number of days in the lunar cycle!

The knowledge of the Celts, particularly that of the druids, was extraordinarily vast and can only be understood to a limited extent today. What is certain, however, is that they knew how to live in harmony with nature, making use of its gifts while treating it with deep respect and remarkable wisdom.



Our Celtic Tree Circle

We hope that trees will once again become a cherished part of everyday life. In 2019, we created our own Celtic Tree Circle here on our grounds. Come and be inspired. Perhaps you still have room in your garden for your own birth tree or personal tree of strength from the Celtic Tree Circle?



The Celtic Tree Horoscope

Every tree has its own unique characteristics. According to Celtic tradition, people born under the sign of each tree are said to share certain personality traits. Which tree is yours?

23.12.-01.01.	apple tree
02.01.-11.01.	fir
12.01.-24.01.	elm
25.01.-03.02.	cypress
04.02.-08.02.	poplar
09.02.-18.02.	ceder
19.02.-29.02.	pine
01.03.-10.03.	willow
11.03.-20.03.	linden
21.03.	oak
22.03.-31.03.	hazel
01.04.- 10.04.	rowan
11.04.-20.04.	maple
21.04.-30.04.	walnut
01.05.-14.05.	yew
15.05.-24.05.	horse chestnut
25.05.-03.06.	ash
04.06.-13.06.	hornbeam
14.06.-23.06.	fig
24.06.	birch

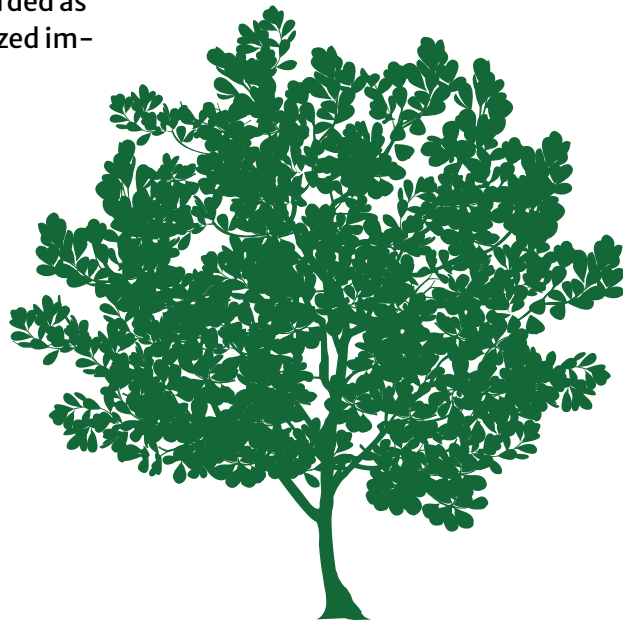
25.06.-04.07.	apple tree
05.07.-14.07.	fir
15.07.-25.07.	elm
26.07.-04.08.	cypress
05.08.-13.08.	poplar
14.08.-23.08.	ceder
24.08.-02.09.	pine
03.09.-12.09.	willow
13.09.-22.09.	linden
23.09.	olive tree
24.09.-03.10.	hazel
04.10.-13.10.	rowan
14.10.-23.10.	maple
24.10.-02.11.	Walnuss
03.11.-11.11.	yew
12.11.-21.11.	horse chestnut
22.11.-01.12.	ash
02.12.-11.12.	hornbeam
12.12.-21.12.	fig
22.12.	beech

Apple Tree

25 Jun – 4 Jul & 23 Dec – 1 Jan

Tree

An apple tree brings warmth and charm to any garden. Its blossoms are especially important for bees and other insects, while its fruit is enjoyed by both birds and people. With its gnarled form, it is a true garden classic. Among the Celts, the apple tree was regarded as sacred and symbolized immortality.



Human

People born under the sign of the apple tree are imaginative, charming and helpful. They often have a positive presence and, thanks to their sensitivity, are deeply attuned to the needs of others.

Fir

2 Jan – 11 Jan & 5 Jul – 14 Jul

Tree

With its majestic stature, the fir shapes forests around the world. Resins extracted from its bark and wood are used to treat colds. In gardens, the many different varieties make striking evergreen ornamental trees.

Human

People born under the sign of the fir possess a graceful presence. Like the tree itself, they are dependable and independent. Although they may appear reserved, those born under the sign of the fir are deeply sensitive.

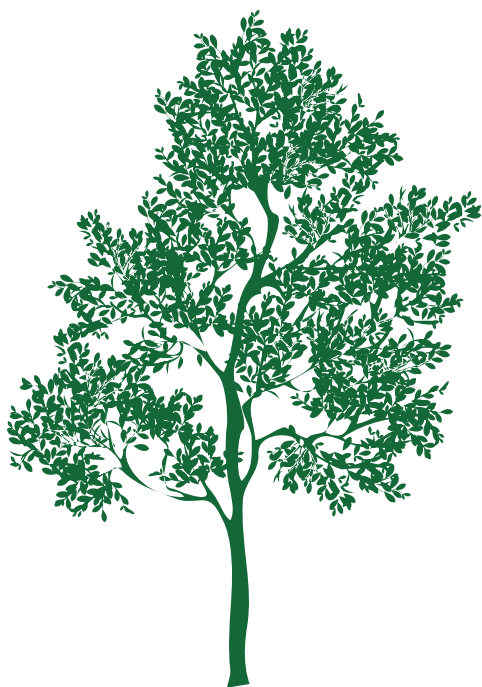


Elm

12 Jan – 24 Jan & 15 Jul – 25 Jul

Tree

The elm is a large tree distinguished by its striking foliage and stately growth. The young leaves of the elm are even edible.



Human

People born under the sign of the elm are known for their zest for life and positive outlook. They are helpful and enjoy spending time with friends. Strong-willed, they move purposefully through life.

Cypress

25 Jan – 3 Feb & 26 Jul – 4 Aug

Tree

The cypress grows tall and slender, shaping Mediterranean landscapes. Its essential oils are often used to treat colds. Its graceful form brings a touch of the Mediterranean to any garden.

Human

People born under the sign of the cypress are curious, freedom-loving and cheerful. Their thirst for knowledge can sometimes make them seem a little restless.



Poplar

4 Feb – 8 Feb & 5 Aug – 13 Aug

Tree

The poplar grows around the world and is renowned for its rapid growth. The Celts used its wood to make everyday objects. Its bark and leaves are still used today for pain relief.

Human

People born under the sign of the poplar are often exceptionally intelligent and artistically gifted. Their love of travel and ability to find contentment shape their lives.



Cedar

9 Feb – 18 Feb & 14 Aug – 23 Aug

Tree

The cedar is a tree of dignity and grandeur. Cedar is one of the world's most valuable timbers and is widely used for making musical instruments. Its upright form is equally impressive in gardens and in the wild.

Human

People born under the sign of the cedar are courageous, determined and strong-willed. These qualities make them natural leaders, combining perseverance with tolerance.



Pine

19 Feb – 29 Feb & 24 Aug – 2 Sep

Tree

The pine grows almost everywhere in the world. It is characterized by its graceful form and evergreen needles. It thrives in sunny, sandy and acidic soils. As a climate-resilient tree, the pine will become increasingly important.



Human

People born under the sign of the pine share many of the tree's qualities: they are contented, patient, adaptable, confident, and articulate.

Willow

1 Mar – 10 Mar & 3 Sep – 12 Sep



Tree

The willow is a graceful tree whose early catkins herald the arrival of spring, bringing delight to both people and bees. Willow wood is flexible and ideal for weaving baskets and other decorative forms.

Human

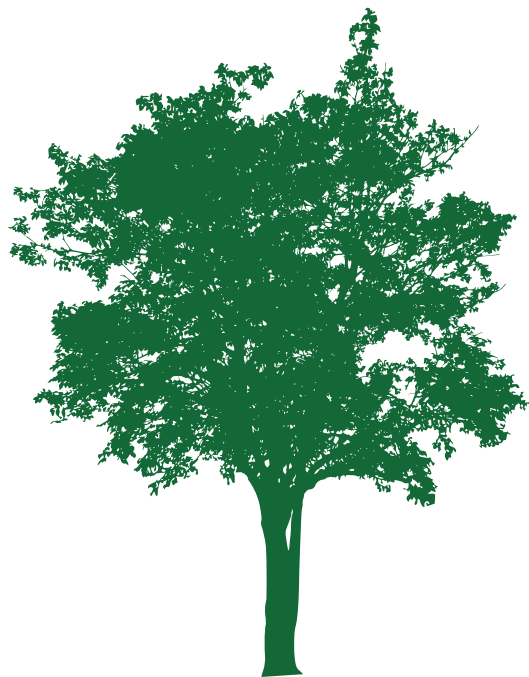
People born under the sign of the willow are flexible, energetic and sometimes a little impulsive. They are introverted, yet especially empathetic towards others.

Linden

11 Mar – 20 Mar & 13 Sep – 22 Sep

Tree

For centuries, the linden has been revered as the tree of celebration and community. Its graceful, elegant form is a delight to behold. Linden blossom tea is not only delicious but also helps relieve colds and sore throats.



Human

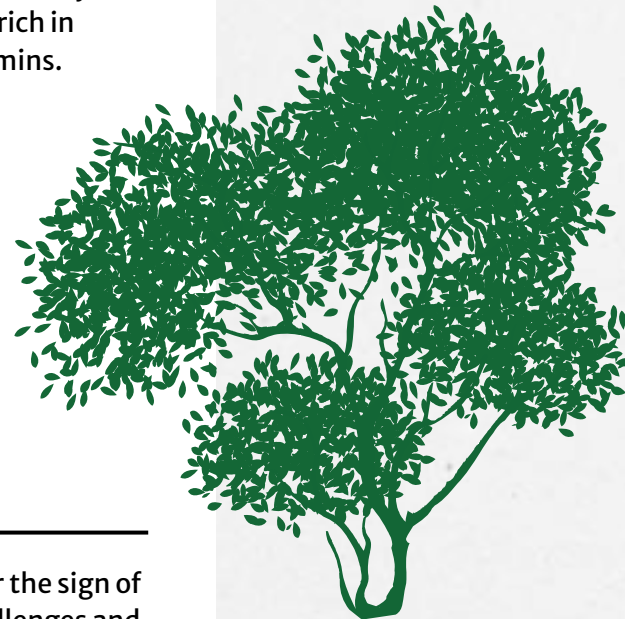
People born under the sign of the linden are considered balanced, cheerful and sociable. They genuinely care about others. Friends can always count on them for sound advice and support.

Hazel

22 Mar – 31 Mar & 24 Sep – 3 Oct

Tree

The hazel is a valuable nut-bearing shrub that is both undemanding and adaptable. Its nuts are not only delicious but also rich in minerals and vitamins.



Human

People born under the sign of the hazel love challenges and adventure. They are determined, clear-minded and dependable, while also being generous and open to new ideas.

Rowan

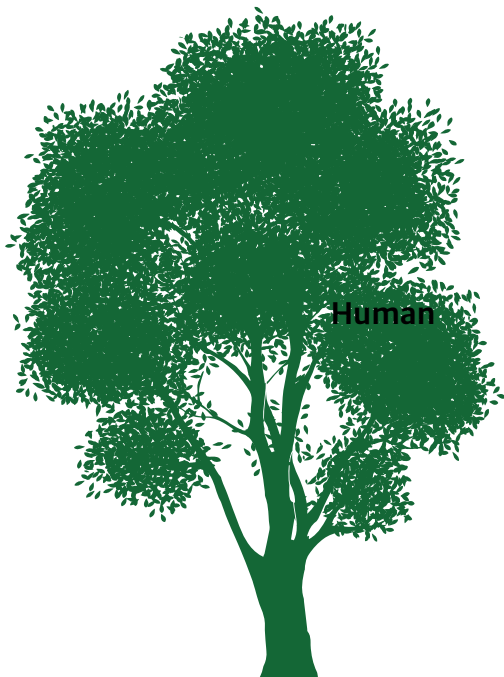
1 Apr – 10 Apr & 4 Oct – 13 Oct

Tree

The rowan is often found in open woodlands. Its blossoms, berries and foliage make it a striking addition to any garden. Birds are particularly fond of the rowan, as it provides an important source of food.

Human

People born under the sign of the rowan enjoy planning and always strive to treat everyone fairly. Their sociable nature and zest for life are infectious.

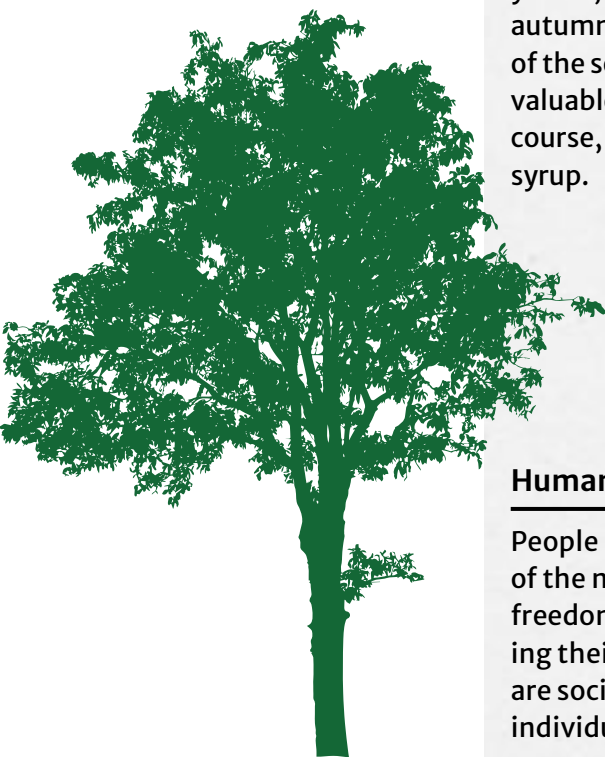


Maple

11 Apr – 20 Apr & 14 Oct – 23 Oct

Tree

The maple's distinctive leaves shape landscapes around the world. Bright green in spring and summer, their foliage turns yellow, red and orange in autumn – the very essence of the season. They provide valuable timber and, of course, the sweet maple syrup.

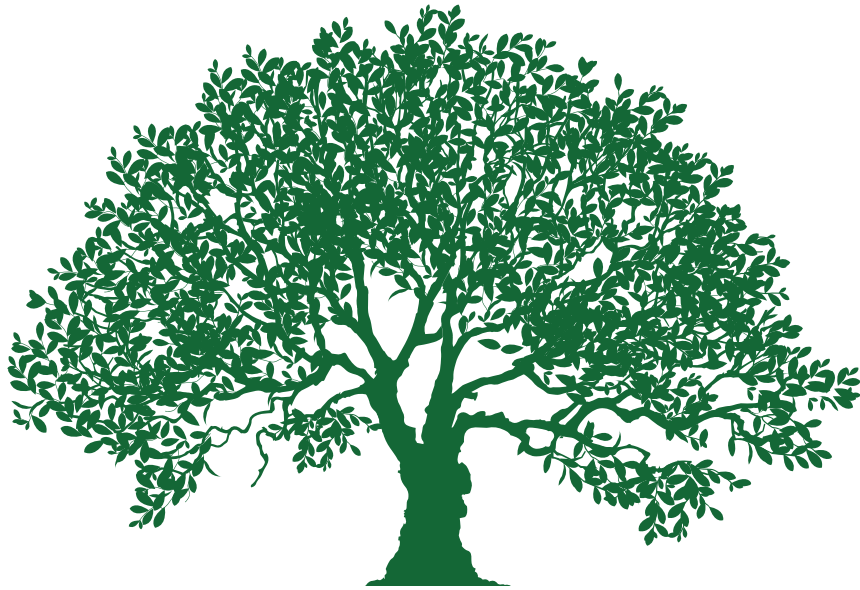


Human

People born under the sign of the maple value their freedom and enjoy pursuing their ambitions. They are sociable and committed individualists.

Walnut

21 Apr – 30 Apr & 24 Oct – 2 Nov



Tree

The walnut is an excellent garden tree that produces delicious nuts in autumn. Its nuts have been used as food for around 10,000 years. Wild walnut trees are relatively rare. In gardens, however, it has long been considered a classic.

Human

People born under the sign of the walnut seek strong roots and harmonious relationships. They are inspired by art and culture and are considered strong-willed and ambitious.

Yew

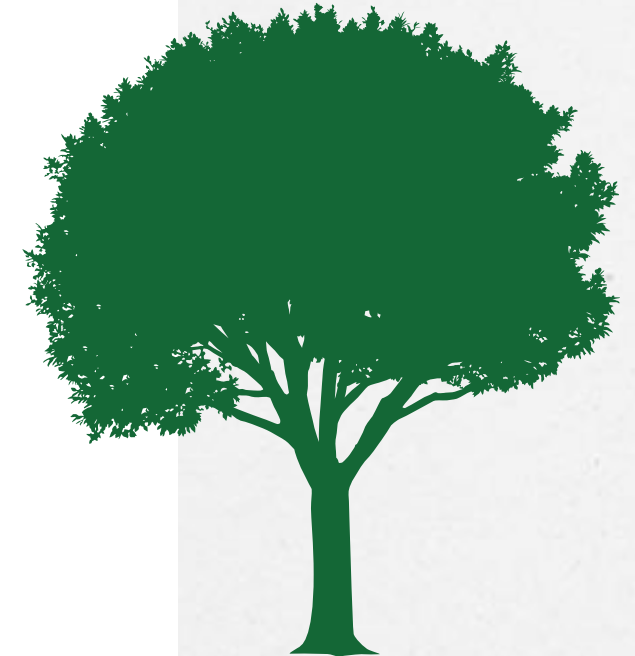
1 May – 14 May & 3 Nov – 11 Nov

Tree

The yew is a wonderful evergreen for any garden. It is no surprise that our ancestors regarded it as a symbol of immortality. It can live for up to 3,000 years. Its hard wood has been used since the Stone Age. Its needles are poisonous.

Human

People born under the sign of the yew are gentle and patient. Sometimes they mask their gentle nature with sarcasm.



Horse Chestnut

15 May – 24 May & 12 Nov – 21 Nov

Tree

The horse chestnut is a classic village tree and a familiar feature of beer gardens. Its blossoms herald the arrival of summer. With its colorful autumn foliage and glossy conkers, the horse chestnut is a symbol of the changing seasons for children.

Human

People born under the sign of the horse chestnut are courageous, helpful and patient. They approach life and their surroundings with commitment and a strong sense of responsibility.



Ash

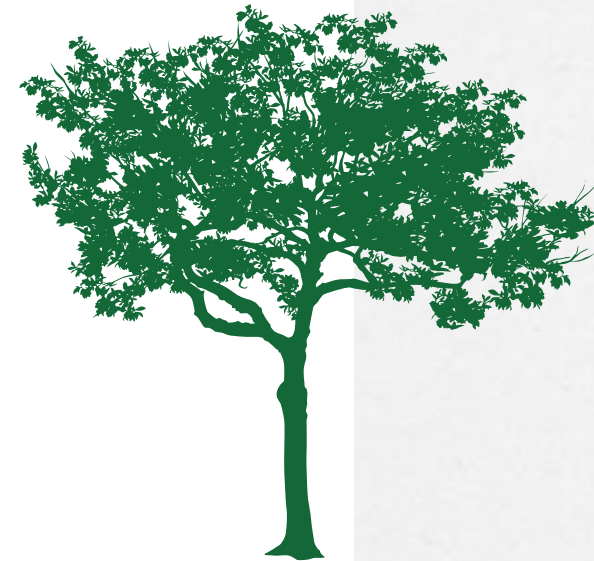
25 May – 3 Jun & 22 Nov – 1 Dec

Tree

The ash thrives in heat and adapts well to a wide range of growing conditions. The Celts regarded the ash as a magical tree. Perhaps because of its resilience, or the healing extracts that can be obtained from its bark and leaves.

Human

People born under the sign of the ash lead creative and spontaneous lives. They are full of energy, love to travel and are always ready to help.



Hornbeam

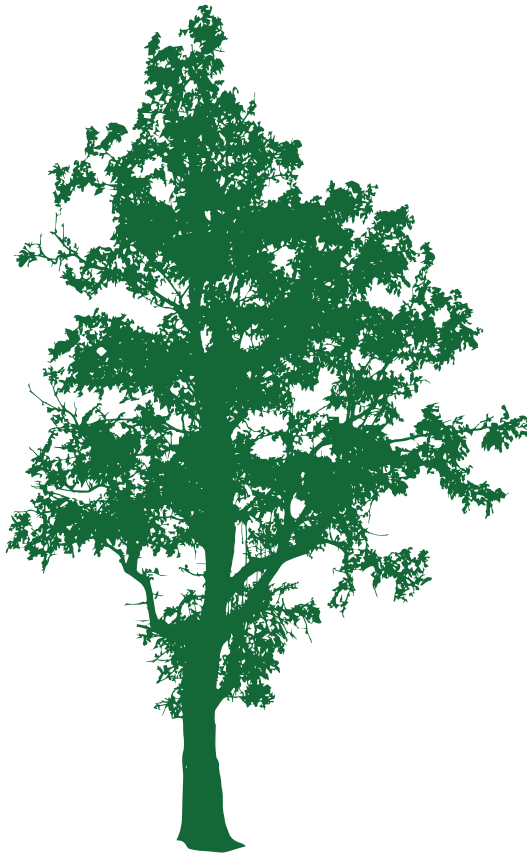
4 Jun – 13 Jun & 2 Dec – 11 Dec

Tree

The hornbeam is tough, responds well to pruning and looks attractive all year round. The Celts regarded the hornbeam as a protective tree, believing it could ward off evil spirits. It is a patient tree, well able to withstand climate change.

Human

People born under the sign of the hornbeam are valued for their fairness and reliability. At times, they can be quite sensitive and therefore easily become unsettled.



Fig

14 Jun – 23 Jun & 12 Dec – 21 Dec

Tree

The fig is a densely branched shrub admired for its foliage and delicious fruit. Thanks to its resilience to heat and drought, the fig is likely to become increasingly at home here as the climate changes.

Human

People born under the sign of the fig are considered imaginative, creative and full of life. Family and friends are very important to them. They are committed to fostering harmonious relationships.



Oak

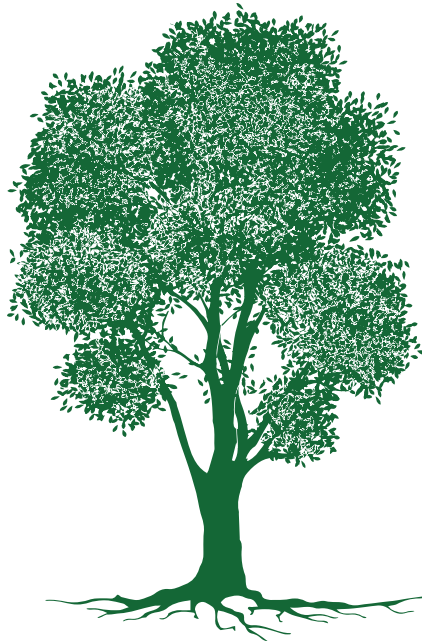
21 Mar

Tree

The oak is a mighty tree that can live for more than 10,000 years. It is renowned for its massive trunk. Oak timber is highly valued. Acorns are also a favorite food of squirrels.

Human

People born under the sign of the oak are patient and calm. They are positive and full of initiative. Their positive outlook keeps their temperament in balance.



Birch

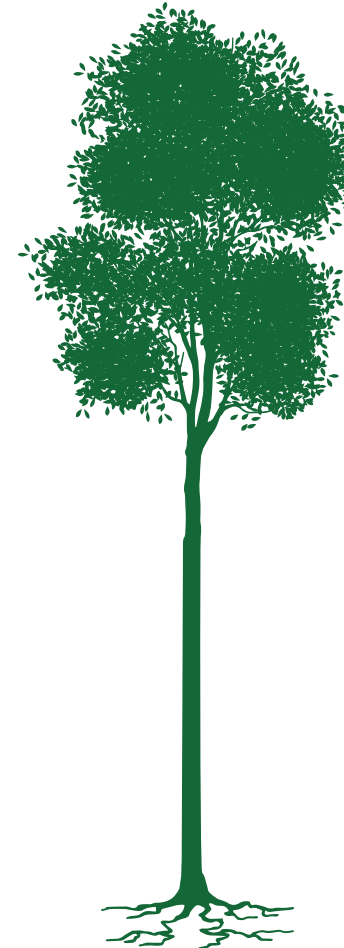
24 Jun

Tree

The birch is admired for its graceful form, distinctive bark and beautiful foliage. Slender and graceful, it adapts well even to windy conditions.

Human

People born under the sign of the birch are self-critical and modest. Optimism and resilience are among their defining qualities.



Olive Tree

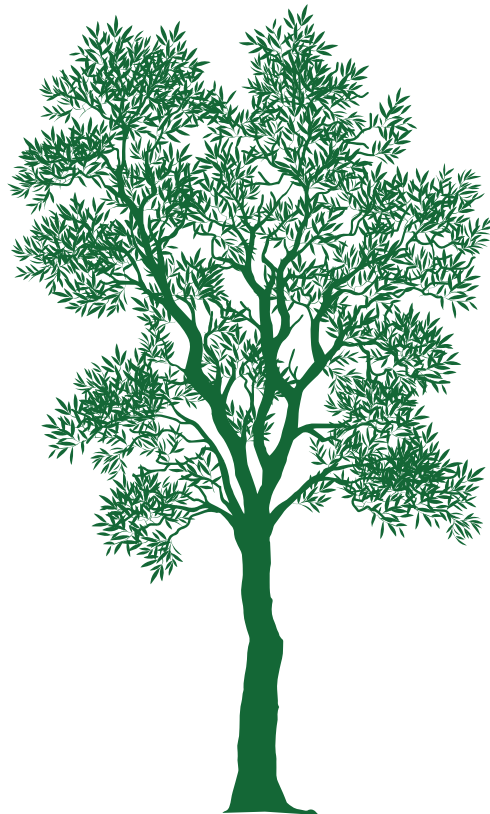
23 Sep

Tree

The olive tree grows into an evergreen tree with silvery-grey foliage. For centuries, it has provided people with delicious olives and, above all, olive oil. As the climate changes, it is likely to become increasingly common in our part of the world.

Human

People born under the sign of the olive tree are considered versatile, gifted, sensible and goal-oriented. These qualities help them lead successful and fulfilling lives.



Beech

22 Dec

Tree

The beech is one of Europe's most important forest trees. It is equally suitable as a hedge plant and as a forest tree. Its bark and wood have traditionally been used to treat fever. Beechnuts can be used to make both a coffee substitute and flavourful flour.

Human

People born under the sign of the beech are conscientious and successful, which can sometimes make them appear a little dominant. They are known for their perseverance and organizational skills.



Box

Tree

The box is a true gentleman. Unique, evergreen and impeccably elegant, it has been a favorite topiary plant since ancient times. Its naturally balanced character has made it a symbol of immortality. Its hard wood was once used to make musical instruments and tools.

A favorite of both the Celts and ourselves, the box has had a difficult time with the box tree moth – but it will bounce back, because that's simply what box does!



Larch

Tree

The larch is a cheerful conifer admired for its graceful form and golden autumn foliage. It loves bright places and embraces the new. Given moist air and soil, it positively comes to life. It can grow to around 30 meters tall and live for up to 400 years.

Its durable timber has been prized for centuries. Its resin is rich in essential oils and renowned for its healing properties.



Black Alder

Tree

Since ancient times, the black alder has flourished in bogs and along stream banks. Places that once inspired awe and unease. Surely these were the realms of bog spirits, mist fairies and alder kings. Countless tales and legends grew up around the alder.

Then, as now, alder branches were used to cleanse homes and farmsteads by fumigation. Growing to between 10 and 25 meters, the tree can live for up to 120 years.

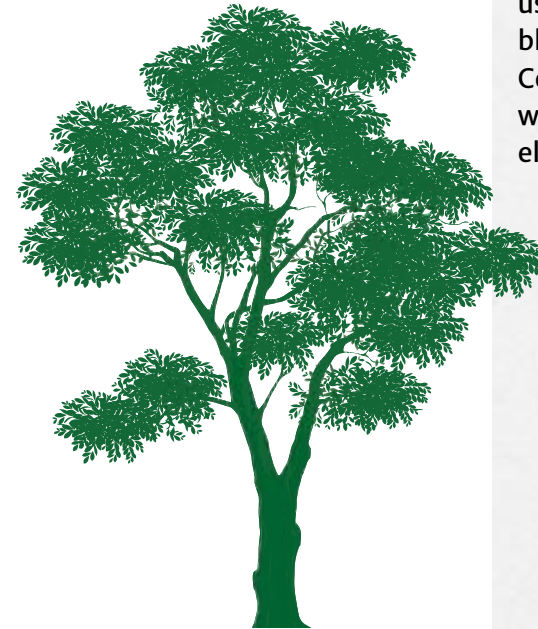


Elder

Tree

The elder grows throughout Europe. It thrives in lightly shaded locations with moist, nutrient-rich soil. It can grow into a magnificent guardian tree for home and farmstead.

The old saying, “Raise your hat to the elder,” perfectly captures the reverence with which this tree has long been regarded. Every part of it – bark, berries, leaves and blossoms – is a source of strength and healing. For generations, the elder has been a living medicine cabinet, used to treat fever, purify the blood and promote vitality. The Celts knew this – and to this day we still raise our hats to the elder.



Juniper

Tree

The Celts were particularly fond of the Irish columnar juniper, *Juniperus communis* 'Hibernica', because of its many uses.

Juniper wood was prized for burning as incense to treat respiratory ailments. Its berries were used to make schnapps.

Juniper was also planted as a hedge, as no other plant offered better protection against evil spirits. "Bow before the juniper" was a well-known saying that expressed deep respect for the tree.

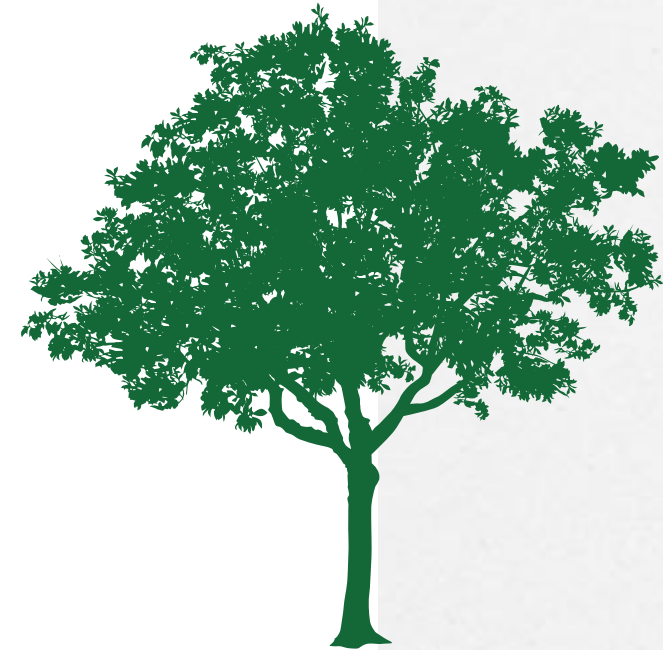


Pear Tree

Tree

Native to Western Asia, the pear is one of the oldest cultivated trees. Pear trees love sunshine, warmth – and plenty of space. They are resilient and patient. It takes three to five years before the first harvest.

Pears are delicious and sweet, help cleanse the kidneys, and strengthen the heart. Pear wood is highly prized for fine furniture and cabinetmaking. Thank you, pear tree!



Publisher:

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