

WILD YOUR SPACE

Wild your school
Rewild your children

Trees and Native Orchards

For a while it seemed like rewilding (or nature restoration) was all about planting trees, but as our knowledge and understanding increases we know that this is just part of the picture. Indeed, rewilding organisations far and wide, are currently working hard to rewet peatlands, restore wildflower meadows, protect grasslands and so much more. And yet, while we are getting better are seeing the big picture, and the importance of diverse habitats, we can never deny or overstate the importance of trees. We also can't deny that we have significantly deforested our country and must now reverse that trend...

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Native trees are an essential part of healthy local ecosystems and help in our fight against climate change. A UK oak tree for example, rather incredibly, supports over 2,000 individual species, whilst simultaneously capturing huge amounts of carbon! So, if you have the space, you should allow trees to feature in any nature restoration project in your school grounds.

We also believe that every child should have the opportunity to plant, at least one tree, and if there is no available space in the school grounds, then perhaps there will be space on some nearby land (with permission of course!).

In addition to the common, and well know native trees (listed above), we also have a



wide range of native fruit trees that are a significant part of Scotland's heritage. These include certain species of – Apple, Cherry, Greengage, Pear, Plum, Quince and Crab Apple. So, when considering trees for your project, don't forget to consider these very appealing options.

www.brightgreennature.org/wildyourspace

An orchard (or even a mini-orchard) makes an wonderful and exciting addition to any school playground. And, as well as being visually impressive, this could become a valuable food-source for pupils, staff and wildlife. It can be quite rare for children to understand where their food comes from, and something as simple as harvesting fruit, and perhaps even making jam, can be both fun and educational.

Orchards, and trees in general, always look best when growing in long grass or when surrounded by wildflower meadows. And as well as looking good, we know that any increase in varied and joined up natural habitats will be a huge benefit to numerous wildlife species.

Free Tress (and advice) for schools !!!

There are several schemes running that provide free trees to schools in the UK. Please note that these schemes are seasonal and sometimes intermittent – so always try to plan well in advance.

- **The Woodland Trust**

is one of the longest running and most successful of all the schemes. They provide several different packs (ranging in size from 15 trees to 420 trees) to suit numerous different purposes and environments. They also provide all the advice that you would ever need.

For further details visit:

woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/

- **The Tree Council**

is another scheme, and they offer specific trees (and advice) for schools looking to plant orchards (or even just a few fruit trees). For further details visit:

treecouncil.org.uk/grants-and-guidance/our-grants/orchards-for-schools/

Other schemes do exist, so we'd recommend just searching "Free Trees for Schools" when you are ready.

AND – Always remember that Bright Green Nature are here to help you as best we can. From helping with the initial planning, possible funding assistance, to helping with planting and ongoing maintenance advice.

Funding

Don't forget our Wild Your Space Micro-grant, which is unique to the Scottish Borders and which has already helped numerous local schools to make their playgrounds more wildlife (and child) friendly.

www.brightgreenature.org/microgrant



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