



Seed Gathering Season 2016
From 23rd September through to 23rd October

CHANGING VIEWS

As celebrations continue for the 300th anniversary year of the birth of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, landscape architect and royal gardener, Seed Gathering Season 2016 is a time to reflect on how his work **changed views** for many, for ever, as he planted woods, dug lakes, constructed parkland and gardens.

It is also a time to look forward to the coming tree year and consider how **landscapes are changing again**, as increasing numbers of tree diseases take hold. In particular, ash dieback has already begun its progress across the country and trees in towns, hedgerows, woods and gardens are starting to succumb to the disease. As time goes on and more ash trees are affected, **views from windows and on walks** all over the country will take on a different aspect. That’s why The Tree Council is urging people to consider the **changing view** and what they can do to turn the negative changes into a positive opportunity.

‘The human impact on landscapes can be massive; some, like Capability Brown, have left changes that are valued but the involuntary importing of tree disease is leaving marks that will bring negative **changes** for **wildlife, biodiversity and view**’ commented Pauline Buchanan Black, Director-General of The Tree Council.

‘By collecting and potting seeds of healthy trees found locally, everyone can start to cultivate a tree that may grow to **change the view** for a future generation. Gathering seeds with children may even **change their view** about what they can achieve, as they plant, water and care for their seedling.’

Seed Gathering Season 2016 also offers people a reason to get outside and enjoy any late sunshine that is adding the last touches to ripening seeds. and gather, nurture and germinate tree seeds for the benefit of their neighbourhoods. Walks in the autumn sunshine provide the perfect opportunity to collect local seeds from parks, streets, woods and hedgerows.

If you want to be sure that you are picking and collecting the right things in the right places, you can join events that will taking place up and down the country, run by The Tree Council’s member organisations, its network of volunteer Tree Wardens and other supporters. Further information, an events map and a free poster to download can be found on the Tree Council’s website, <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk>.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. About growing trees from seed

For tips on successful collection, germination and nurture of 46 varieties of native tree seed, 'The Good Seed Guide' - a booklet about collecting seeds and growing trees, with identification details - is available for £3.50 (including postage and packing)

For information about growing a wide range of common ornamental trees as well as our many native species 'Tree and How to Grow Them' - a hardback book with colour illustrations and photographs - is also available at a special price of £10 (including postage and packing)

Both are available from The Tree Council, www.treecouncil.org.uk

2. About The Tree Council

Environmental charity The Tree Council, founded 40 years ago, was launched to lead the UK-wide response to a national tree disease crisis: the 1960s Dutch Elm Disease outbreak that was killing millions of elms in town and countryside, **changing views** for ever. During Plant A Tree in '73, National Tree Planting Year, communities, voluntary and public sector organisations all worked together to try and lessen the impact of these devastating changes to the view across urban and rural landscapes.

Now an umbrella body for over 170 organisations working together for trees - planting, caring for and enjoying them - and a forum for tackling issues relating to trees and woods, it focuses on making trees matter to people; more trees, of the right kind, in the right places; better care for all trees of all ages and inspiring effective action for trees. It works with its national volunteer Tree Warden Scheme and member organisations to engage people in biodiversity and environmental issues and to promote planting and conservation of trees and woods in town and country.

A major part of this is achieved through its annual Community Action Programme (see below for dates) and through supporting groups organising local events. It also operates a tree-planting grants programme for UK schools and communities to plant trees and create woodland habitats, as well as working on an agenda for change that includes the Green Monument Campaign and Hedge Tree Campaign.

3. Community Action Programme Tree Year 2016/2017 #CHANGINGVIEWS
Seed Gathering Season Friday 23rd September to Sunday 23rd October 2016

National Tree Week Saturday 26th November to Sunday 4th December 2016

Tree Care Campaign Tuesday 21st March 2017 to Thursday 21st September 2017

Walk in the Woods month Monday 1st May 2017 to Wednesday 31st May 2017