



**Seed Gathering Season 2013  
From 23<sup>rd</sup> September through to 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Grow the Difference**

Since 1998, The Tree Council has been organising Seed Gathering Season, the annual campaign to remind would-be tree planters that gathering and growing seeds from local, healthy trees is probably one of the best ways of taking out insurance that the next generation will be sound. At a time when several species of trees are being ravaged by newly imported pests and diseases, the saving factor is going to be diversity of stock and the way forward is going to be trees grown on home soil.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, we launch the start of the new tree year with Seed Gathering Season 2013. If we want to grow trees that are not diseased and do not carry infections with them, then our best chance is to find seeds from trees that are healthy and thriving in local areas. Over the next month, most of our trees will produce seeds and fruit and using this seed to grow a free tree could make a valuable difference. Trials are taking place to find a resistant strain of ash so that woodlands, countryside, parks and gardens can be repopulated. Meanwhile, it will be important to grow strong young trees from many different tree species so that we can endow the landscape with the strength that comes from diversity.

‘Collecting and growing tree seed is such a rewarding activity and anyone, from any section of the community, can make a difference by starting their own tree nursery. Finding the common ground with neighbours, recognising that all species – human or plant – have something to offer is the first step to being comfortable with distinctions whilst valuing that difference’ said Pauline Buchanan Black, director-general of The Tree Council. ‘Our aim is to enable communities to come together and do something practical to support plant life and biodiversity. Growing trees from seed is a strong start to co-operation and valuing the diversity of the human race.’

If you want to be sure that you are picking the right things in the right places, there are planned events, run by The Tree Council's member organisations, its volunteer Tree Wardens and other supporters, currently taking place throughout the country. Further information, and a free poster to download, can be found on the Tree Council's website, <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk>.

ENDS

For further information on Seed Gathering Season please contact (press enquiries only):  
Margaret Lipscombe: 07967 201 624  
Jon Stokes: 07850 389 862

CONTINUES / -

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### 1. Please bear in mind that:

-  fruit is the property of the landowner, whichever side of the hedge it grows, so it should only be collected with the owner's permission. Any collecting should be done without causing damage.
-  you need to be sure you know what you are collecting if you intend to eat it
-  if collecting with children they will need to be supervised, as many poisonous fruits and seeds are very attractive.

### 2. 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](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

### 3. About The Tree Council

Environmental charity The Tree Council is an umbrella body for over 180 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.

### 4. 2013/2014 Community Action Programme

#### Seed Gathering Season

*GROW THE DIFFERENCE*

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013*

#### Tree Care Campaign

*MAKE THE DIFFERENCE*

*Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014*

#### National Tree Week

*PLANT THE DIFFERENCE*

*Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013*

#### Walk in the Woods

*SEE THE DIFFERENCE*

*Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014*