



Seed Gathering Season 2014
From 23rd September through to 23rd October

Sow and Grow Together

At a time when Ash, Horse Chestnut and other trees are being hit by pests and diseases, it is more important than ever for new trees to be grown by communities, working together and using local seeds. On 23rd September, we launch the start of the new tree year with Seed Gathering Season 2014. What better way to get started than by collecting from the ripening seed crop that is available, for free, in many parks, hedgerows, woods and streets?

Seed Gathering Season is a time for communities to make the most of the time of year. More than 90% of the population lives in towns and cities (2010 Defra statistics <http://bit.ly/1qgYMMG>) where the trees are neighbours as much as the people are. What can neighbours do? Get together and take part in activities to collect, sow and grow trees together as insurance for the future of their green landscape. They can also look around and find seeds and nuts to eat or prepare in new ways.

‘From classes on what and where to pick, to foraging walks and ideas for how to transform what is collected into jams, jellies and other treats, we aim to inspire people to enthuse their friends, neighbours and local community.’ said Pauline Buchanan Black, Director-General of The Tree Council. ‘Together, neighbours can grow a sense of mutual support, grow the recognition that working together makes more sense than working alone and grow a more favourable environment for both people and trees.’

If you want to be sure that you are picking and collecting 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

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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.

Foraging and recipe information can be found on www.hedgerowharvest.org.uk.

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 £4 (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.

3. About The Tree Council

Environmental charity The Tree Council, founded 40 years ago, is 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.

4. 2014/2015 Community Action Programme

Seed Gathering Season

SOW AND GROW TOGETHER

Tuesday 23rd September to Thursday 23rd October 2014

National Tree Week

PLANT AND GROW TOGETHER

Saturday 29th November – Sunday 7th December 2014

Tree Care Campaign

TEND AND GROW TOGETHER

Saturday 21st March to Monday 21st September 2015

Walk in the Woods

WALK AND GROW TOGETHER

Friday 1st May – Sunday 31st May 2015