



## 20,000 free trees for London's schools

As part of the [For the Love of Trees – London](#) programme there are up to 20,000 free trees available for London schools.

The trees are provided by our delivery partner Woodland Trust. These packs of trees come in a variety of sizes and themes to suit different spaces. Schools can choose from packs of 30, 105 or 420 trees.

A first round of applications took place from November 2015 to January 2016. Schools that applied for trees in that round will receive their tree packs between 7-11 March 2016. **Applications have now reopened until 7 September 2016**, and trees will be distributed for planting in November 2016. We welcome applications from all schools in London.



### Why apply?

Planting trees is a great way to connect children with nature. Trees and woods can be used to teach many subjects in the school curriculum and also provide an exciting playground feature. The trees can be planted as a hedge to screen perimeter fencing and create outdoor learning areas. Shaded school grounds can also make break times safer on a hot day. Trees can also benefit wildlife and help tackle air pollution and flooding.

There are links resources below for teachers and pupils to help make the most of your free trees.

### What do you need to do?

Simply complete the short online application form! [APPLY NOW](#) via The Woodland Trust website. The deadline for applications is **7 September 2016**.

The application form includes a few questions about your project so schools will need to have:

- Please make sure you have **landowner permission** for the site where you wish to plant. The Woodland Trust need this information to process your application.
- Your woodland should be enjoyed for years to come, so your trees should be planted on either the school grounds, land the school has arranged regular access to or in an area that is publically accessible. The application form will ask for **details of the location** of where you plan to plant the trees.
- Make sure your trees are going to be well looked after once they are planted – caring for them well will ensure they thrive for years to come!
- Make sure you have plenty of space to accommodate the pack size you want to order. See **FAQs below** for more information about this.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **What's in a tree pack?**

Packs of trees come in a variety of sizes and themes to suit different spaces. Schools can choose from packs of 30, 105 or 420 trees.

Small packs come in a choice of two themes, either to plant as a 'hedge' (hawthorn; hazel; holly; dog rose; dogwood) or a 'copse' (silver birch; rowan; wild cherry). Medium and large packs come in a choice of six themes offering a variety of benefits from encouraging wildlife to year round colour.

[Read more](#) about the tree species included in each pack on The Woodland Trust website.

- **How big are the trees and where do they come from?**

All saplings are native, UK grown and supplied 20–40cm high, a perfect size for establishing quickly.

- **How much space do I need?**

As a rough guide:

30 saplings = 1 tennis court, or 8.5m of single line hedging

105 saplings = 4 tennis courts, or 30m of single line hedging

420 saplings = 16 tennis courts, or 120m single line of hedging

- **How many trees can I apply for?**

Schools can apply for up to 420 trees each.

- **30 trees is too many, can I have less?**

We appreciate that 30 trees might be too many for some small areas. You can plant them in small groups, and/or as a hedge. We also don't mind if you'd like to split the pack over a couple of local sites or share them with another nearby group. Just mention your plans on the application form and include the location for the main planting site.

- **Can I plant the trees in raised beds?**

The small hedgerow tree pack, or the wild harvest pack includes smaller species of tree that are suitable for hedging. The other packs of trees contain larger species such as rowan and silver birch which will grow taller. You could plant these trees in raised beds for a year or two, but you would then need to plant them out in a suitable site where they had space to grow. Trees planted in raised beds or containers will need more regular watering than those planted in the ground. The [Royal Horticultural Society](#) website offers advice about suitable trees to grow in containers.

- **How do I find my grid reference?**

The Woodland Trust need to run some location checks on your chosen planting site. A grid reference is more accurate than a postcode. To find it you can use sites such as [www.gridreferencefinder.com/](http://www.gridreferencefinder.com/). Enter the nearest postcode and then select your chosen planting location. The correct grid reference should appear at the bottom of the map. You need two letters followed by six numbers.

[Read more](#) about free tree packs on The Woodland Trust website.

A [Full list of FAQs](#) (including information about pack delivery) is on The Woodland Trust website.

### Resources for Schools from The Woodland Trust:

[Teacher Notes](#) on free tree packs with suggested activities.

[Pupil worksheets](#) on free tree packs, with worksheets on tree identification.

[Fascinating Tree Facts](#) sheet.



The Mayor of London with a 30 tree 'hedge' pack

