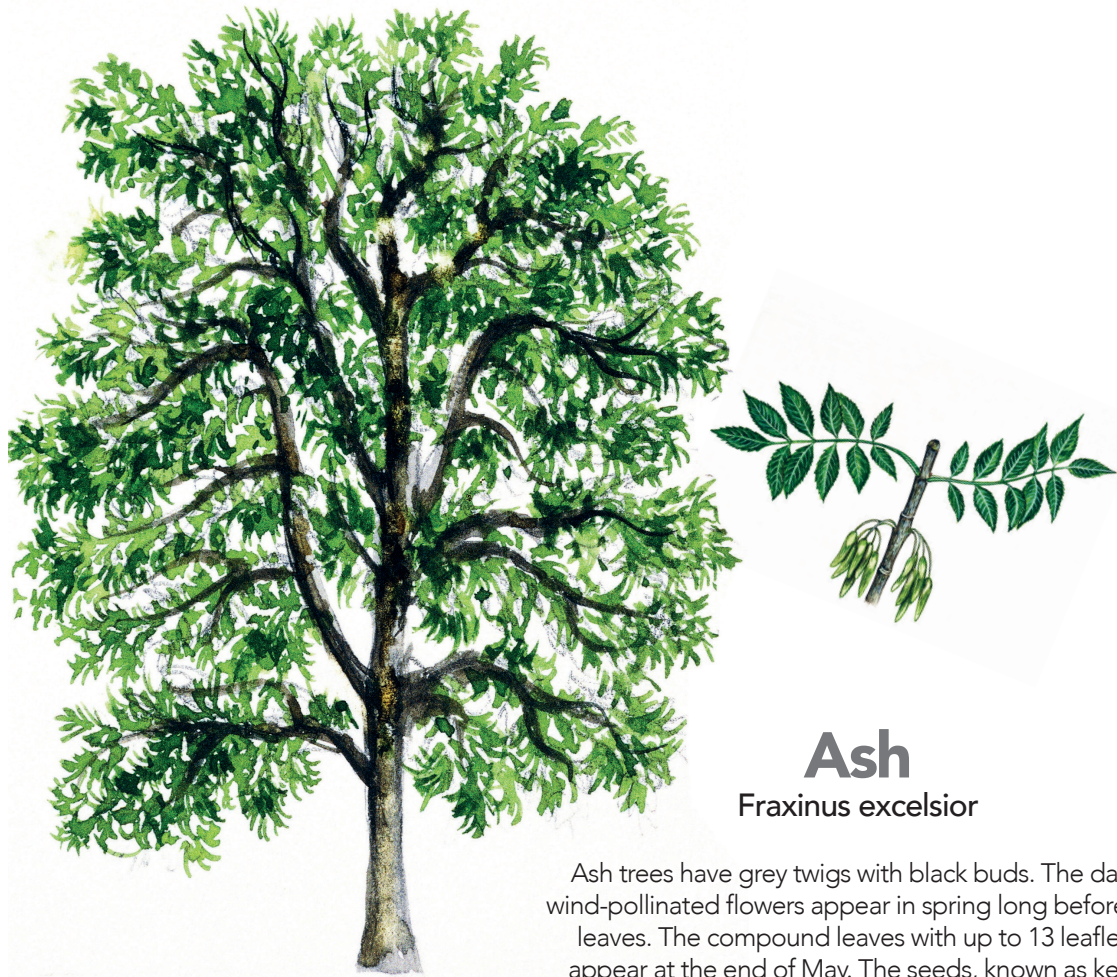
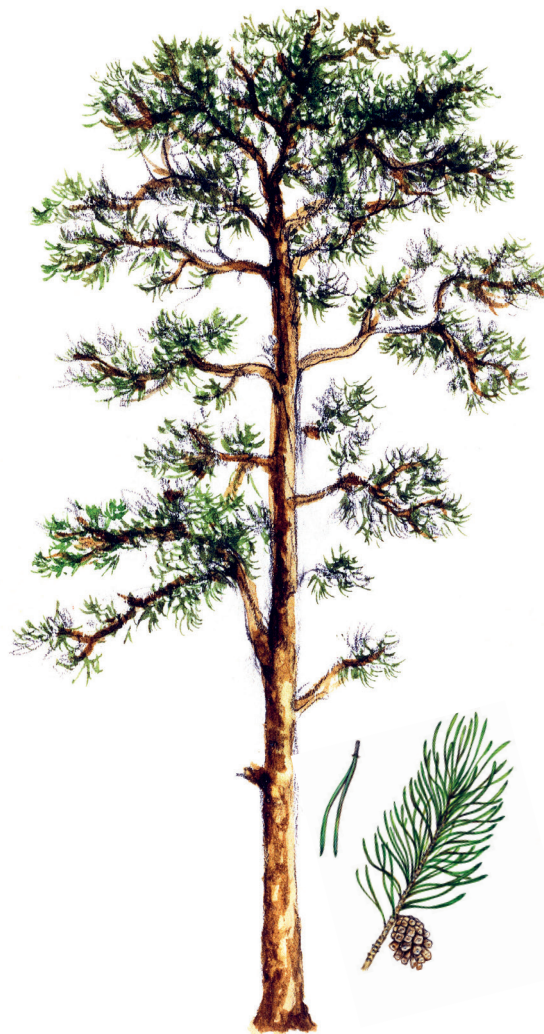


# THE IRISH TIMES Trees of Ireland



**Ash**  
*Fraxinus excelsior*

Ash trees have grey twigs with black buds. The dark, wind-pollinated flowers appear in spring long before the leaves. The compound leaves with up to 13 leaflets appear at the end of May. The seeds, known as keys, occur in bunches and remain on the trees long after leaf fall. Each has a wing, for wind dispersal. Up to 40m.



**Scots pine**  
*Pinus sylvestris*

This is a tall, handsome orange-red-barked tree with a bare trunk and a flat crown of foliage when mature. It is an evergreen coniferous tree whose two-needed leaves are borne on short shoots. Pine cones are green at first but turn brown and open when ripe, allowing the small single-winged seeds to be carried away by the wind. Up to 35m.



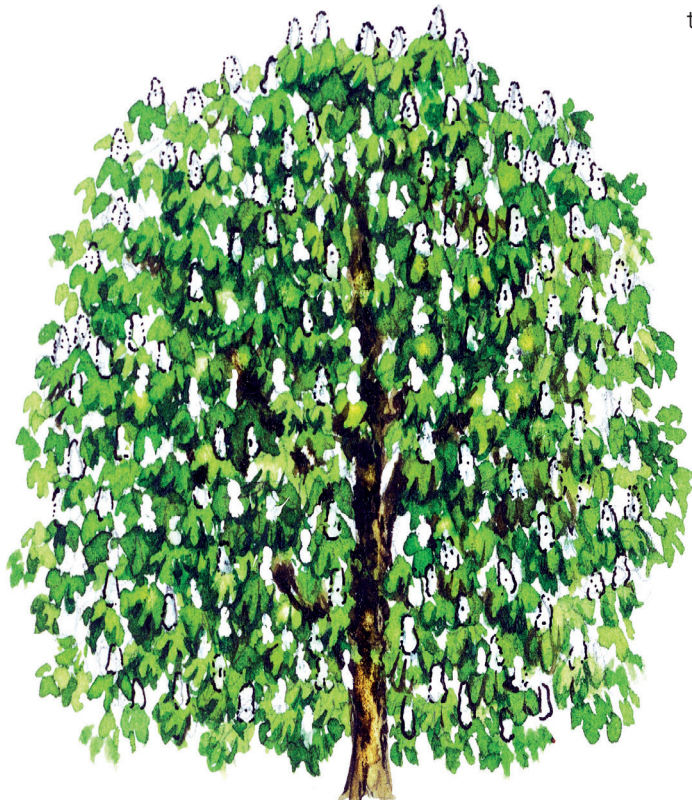
**Sessile oak**  
*Quercus petraea*

The buds of the oak are borne on brownish twigs with three or four terminal buds clustered together. Catkin flowers are produced in early April, and are wind-pollinated. The characteristic lobed leaves appear soon afterwards. The sessile, or stalkless, acorns, which sit directly on the twigs, ripen in autumn. Up to 37m.



**Horse chestnut**  
*Aesculus hippocastanum*

This non-native tree originated in the Balkans. Its large brown sticky buds open in March, and the compound leaves have up to seven palmate leaflets. By May the tree is covered with large "candles" of many white flowers. The prickly green fruit forms by mid-summer, containing the chestnuts or "conkers" which ripen in autumn to a shiny mahogany colour. Up to 30m.



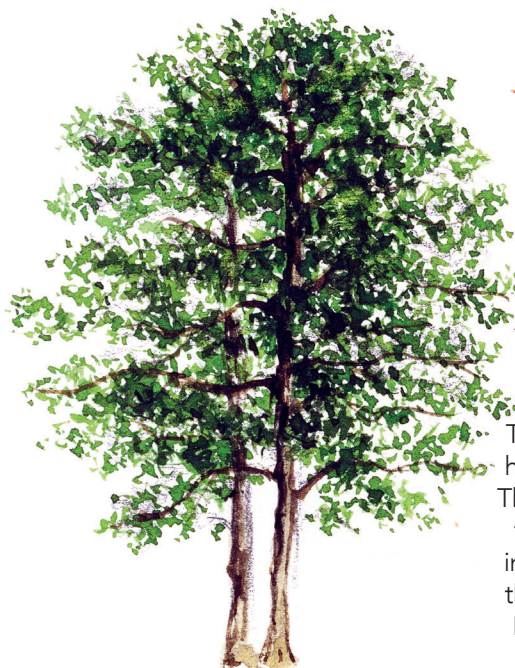
**Silver birch**  
*Betula pendula*

The silver birch has a bright silver bark, drooping, hairless twigs and triangular or diamond-shaped simple leaves, with long slender tips. Male and female flowers, on separate catkins, emerge with the leaves in April. The female catkins are pollinated by the wind and their small seeds are also wind-dispersed. Up to 30m.



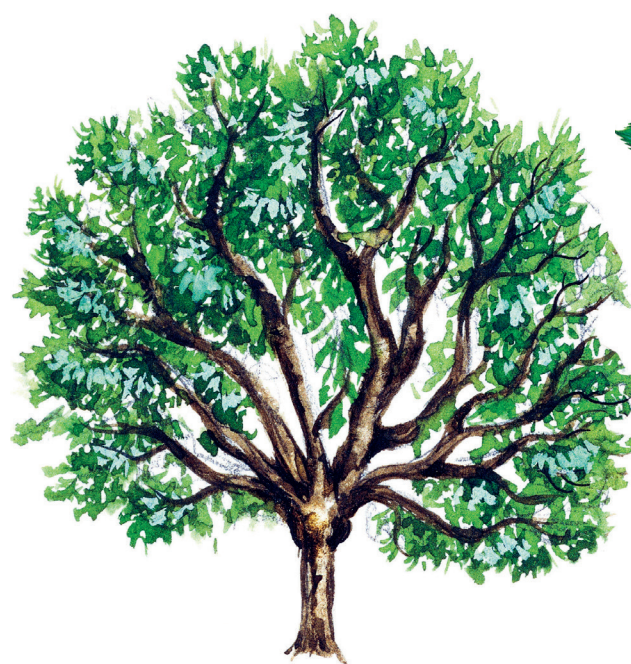
**Wych elm**  
*Ulmus glabra*

The flowers of the native wych elm appear in spring, before the leaves. They are reddish clusters, borne directly on the twigs, but are not obvious until they mature into pale green seeds that ripen and then fall off. The leaves are rough like sandpaper, oval with toothed margins and a distinct tip. Up to 35m.



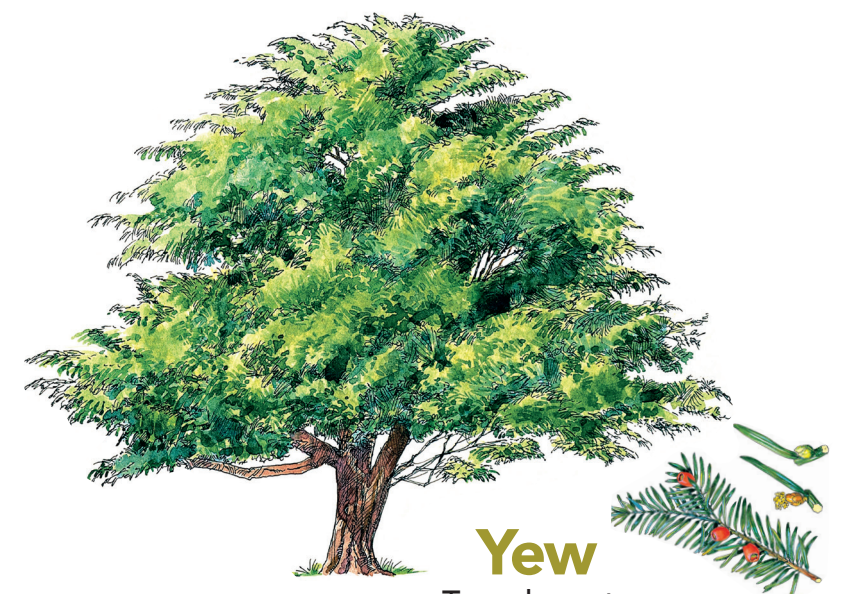
**Alder**  
*Alnus glutinosa*

The alder tree has a dark-brown bark and hairless twigs on which mauve buds form. The wind-pollinated flowers appear before the leaves. The male catkins are reddish in colour, while the female cones produce the wind-dispersed seeds when fertilised. Leaves, which emerge in April are heart-shaped, toothed and hairless with no point at the tip. Up to 20m.



**Wild cherry**  
*Prunus avium*

The larger of our two native cherry species, this is a handsome tree with a shining bark. Its simple, oval-shaped leaves, hairy on the underside, appear in early April, followed by pale pink or white flowers. The edible dark-red cherries appear in summer. The leaves turn red-gold in colour in autumn before falling. Up to 30m.



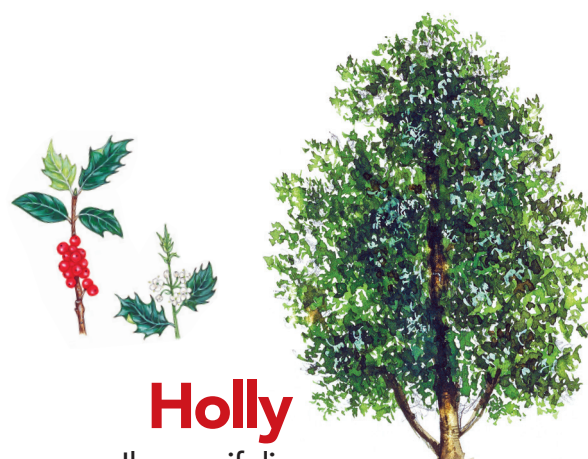
**Yew**  
*Taxus baccata*

This drawing is of the large native yew, which once formed great woodlands. The male trees bear small cones with pollen that is blown by the wind to fertilise the flowers on the female trees. The fruits are scarlet fleshy berries. A mutant form with upright branches, discovered in Co Fermanagh in 1780, has been widely propagated and is now the more familiar Irish yew. Up to 26m.



**Rowan**  
*Sorbus aucuparia*

Rowan, or mountain ash, has a smooth grey bark and grey-brown twigs. The compound leaves, which open in April, have up to 15 toothed leaflets. Wide flat-topped clusters of creamy-white flowers in May are pollinated by insects. Bunches of scarlet berries are borne in early autumn. Up to 19m.



**Holly**  
*Ilex aquifolium*

Both male and female trees carry small, creamy flowers in May. The distinctive red berries follow on female trees in autumn. Leaves on lower branches are shiny with wavy edges and prickles, but higher up they have flat, smooth edges and no prickles. Up to 20m.



**Hazel**  
*Corylus avellana*

Hazel twigs have greenish-brown buds. Catkins appear from late December but usually in February. Pollen from the long pale-yellow male catkins is wind blown to the tiny bud-like female flowers. Simple round leaves appear in April, soft and downy with hairs on both sides. Nuts form early in autumn. Up to 15m.

Find out more at [irishtimes.com/treesofireland](http://irishtimes.com/treesofireland)

Text: Éanna Ní Lamhna, president of the Tree Council of Ireland Illustrations: Getty Images

## Tree Council of Ireland sponsorship scheme: Gift a tree and grow a forest

Our scheme enables you to commemorate a special event, remember a loved one or give the gift of a tree by providing you with the opportunity to have a tree planted in the name of a person of your choosing. This tree will be numbered, and a personalised certificate will be issued recording the name of the person for whom the tree is planted.

For full details, please visit [www.treecouncil.ie](http://www.treecouncil.ie) or email [trees@treecouncil.ie](mailto:trees@treecouncil.ie)



Tree Council  
of Ireland

Kindly supported by



Gas  
Networks  
Ireland