

Common Trees

A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife

Many of the trees we see have been planted, even in woodlands, so the variety of possible species is huge. This guide features those species that are most commonly encountered, both as street trees as well as in more natural habitats. More common species are featured in the complimentary guide to Common Trees and Shrubs of Hedges.

When viewing online, simply click on the species name to find out more.



Sycamore – *Acer pseudoplatanus*

ID: 'Maple' leaves without spiky edges. Paired winged seeds that droop.

Where: Coloniser of woodlands. Parks.

Similar: [Norway Maple](#) (spiky leaves)



Common Lime – *Tilia x europaea*

ID: Heart-shaped leaves. Pendant white-yellow flowers with strap-shaped bract. White hairs under leaves.

Where: Streets, parks. Widely planted.

Similar: [Small-leaved Lime](#) (orange hairs under leaves).



Horse Chestnut – *Aesculus hippocastanum*

ID: 5 fingered leaves. Large white flowers. 'Conker' seeds. Brown blotches on leaves are caused by the Horse Chestnut Leafminer moth.

Where: Parks. Widely planted.

Similar: [Red Horse Chestnut](#) (red flowers)



English Oak – *Quercus robur*

ID: Grows to huge size. Leaves unstalked, acorns on stalks.

Where: Woods, hedges.

Similar: [Sessile Oak](#) (acorns stalkless), [Turkey Oak](#) (deeper leaf lobes + tassled acorn cups)

Become a citizen scientist! If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at www.naturespot.org.uk and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

Other common Leicestershire trees to check out:

[Wild Cherry](#), [Yew](#), [Crab Apple](#), [Rowan](#), [Elm](#), [Beech](#), [Sweet Chestnut](#), [Aspen](#),



[Ash – *Fraxinus excelsior*](#)

ID: Grows very large. 3-6 leaflets in opposite pairs. Dangling seeds (keys). Black buds in winter.

Where: Woods, hedges, parks.

Similar: None.



[Alder – *Alnus glutinosa*](#)

ID: Rounded leaves that taper into the stalk. Catkins. Small cones that turn brown with age.

Where: Naturally by water but widely planted.

Similar: [Italian Alder](#) (lobed leaf bases).



[London Plane – *Platanus x hispanica*](#)

ID: 'Maple' leaves, flaky bark, round & spiky fruits.

Where: Streets, parks – widely planted.

Similar: [Norway Maple](#) (winged fruits)



[Silver Birch – *Betula pendula*](#)

ID: Silvery bark, drooping branches, triangular leaves.

Where: Naturally a coloniser but widely planted.

Similar: [Downy Birch](#) (minute hairs on leaf stalks)



[Norway Maple – *Acer platanoides*](#)

ID: 'Maple', spiky leaves. Paired winged seeds.

Where: Streets, parks. Widely planted.

Similar: [London Plane](#) (round seeds)



[Hybrid Crack Willow – *Salix x fragilis*](#)

ID: Large tree, often split into multiple trunks. Long, serrated leaves.

Where: By water.

Similar: [Osier](#) (longer, thinner leaves), other willows.

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Wildlife ID Guides at:
www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides



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