



Gwent Wildlife Trust

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Ash Fraxinus excelsior

Wildlife [Trees and shrubs](#) [Ash](#)



About

In Scandinavian mythology Ash was the 'tree of life' and in the UK it was regarded as a healing tree, but today, Ash is sometimes considered a 'weed'. It is a tall, broad tree that is both tough and fast-growing, and manages to colonise areas easily, taking up space where other trees have died or fallen. However, it is a good forest tree as it lets light reach the floor, allowing other plants to flourish, such as Wild Garlic and Dog's Mercury. It is particularly common in the north and Wales where it likes damp and fertile soils in cooler conditions.

How to identify

Ash can easily be recognised by its compound leaves (made up of seven to twelve leaflets), its large black buds and the bunches of ash 'keys' - winged seeds - that disperse in the autumn.

Where to find it

Join us

Protect local wildlife



Species information

i **Common name**
Ash

Latin name
Fraxinus excelsior

Category
Trees and shrubs

Statistics
Height: 15-30m

🌍 Conservation status
Common.

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Widespread
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Habitats



When to find it



How can people help

The Wildlife Trusts manage many woodland nature reserves sympathetically for all kinds of species. A mix of coppicing, scrub-cutting, ride maintenance and non-intervention all help woodland wildlife to thrive. You can help too: volunteer for your local Wildlife Trust and you could be involved in everything from traditional forest crafts to raising awareness about woodland animals.

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