

Our Coastal Pack contains species which are relatively quick growing and will tolerate salt laden winds and includes blackthorn, hornbeam, sea buckthorn, sycamore, rowan, and willows.



Blackthorn: (*Prunus spinosa*) – A large shrub which will grow to 5m tall, with blackish bark and stiff spiny branches. Is often the first out in flower in the spring when it is covered in small white flowers which appear before the leaves and it produces “sloe” berries in the autumn. It is often found on cliff edges and is very tolerant of salt winds.

Hornbeam: (*carpinus betulus*) – Grows to about 15-25m tall (& rarely up to 30m tall). Its bark is smoothish and greenish/ grey, even in old trees. It is shade tolerant, prefers moderate moisture and soil fertility, and its dense foliage stands up well to cutting back. Its leaves have prominent veins with serrated edges and the wood is heavy and hard and burns hot and slowly so is ideal for use as firewood.

Sea Buckthorn: (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) – Medium sized shrub which can reach 0.5 m – 6m tall. A deciduous plant, its branches are very dense, stiff and very thorny and have pale silvery-green leaves. They can produce orange berries which are soft, juicy, edible and nutritious, (although very acidic). Very good as a vandal proof barrier and very salt tolerant.

Sycamore: (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) – A large tree which can grow to 20 – 35 m tall. It is not a native tree, but has become widely naturalised in the UK. It produces yellow/green flowers in the spring, and winged seeds in the autumn which rotate in the wind as they fall to the ground and can grow quickly where they land. Very tolerant of winds and salt spray.

Rowan: (*Sorbus aucuparia*) – Small to medium sized tree which grows to 8-10 m tall. Its bark is smooth and silvery grey when young, becoming scaly pale-brown as it gets older. It produces large corymbs of tiny white flowers followed by small round green berries that ripen to bright red in the summer which are an important food source for many birds. Although very bitter, the berries can be made into rowan jelly. It is very tolerant of the cold and a wide range of soil conditions and salt air.

Willow: (*Salix*) Can grow to 8 – 10 m but can be easily coppiced to produce numerous new shoots. They thrive in wet conditions and their roots will grow widespread and aggressively to seek out water, so planting them near any underground pipes should be avoided. They produce catkins in the spring, often before the leaves, or as the new leaves open. Willows can often be found growing on the edge of pebbly beaches, so very salt tolerant.

Planting:

The plants we will supply you with are bare-rooted and are available to plant when dormant from late October until late March.

Plant them approximately 3 m apart (450 trees per acre), or 2.5 m apart (648 per acre).

To work out how many trees you will need for a specific area:

Multiply the length by the width – for example an area 70m x 10m = 700 sq.m

Planted 2.5m apart – each tree will take up an area of 6.25 sq.m (2.5m x 2.5m)

So divide 700 by 6.25 = 112 trees required.

Planted 3m apart – 3m x 3m = 9 sq.m

Divide 700 by 9 = 78 trees required.

Grass or weeds will compete with the newly planted trees for nutrients and moisture, so make sure an area about 50cms square is kept free from grass or weed around each tree. Achieve this by either spraying off the grass/weed with a suitable broad spectrum herbicide at least a week before planting, or removing the grass with a mattock or spade when they are planted.

It is important to keep the area around the tree clean for at least two growing seasons, either by using herbicide sprays, an organic mulch, or using “mulch mats” (please ask for more details).

The trees will grow at least three times faster in clean conditions. Voles thrive in tufted grass so keeping an open space around the tree will discourage voles from damaging them.

Protecting the trees from rabbits or deer:

Once you have made the decision to buy and plant your trees for your coastal situation, it is important that they are allowed to thrive and grow, without being nibbled by rabbits or browsed by deer.

Therefore if you have rabbits (or hares) and deer in the area where you intend to plant, you will have to consider protecting them against attack.

If your only concern is rabbits, then planting them in spiral shelters supported by bamboo canes should be sufficient. If you also have deer in the area, then you may have to consider planting them in either 1.2m, 1.5m or 1.8m shelterguards supported by timber stakes.

We are able to supply suitable spirals or shelters to protect them, so please ask for our advice on which you will need to use, and for prices.

For more information or to place an order please contact us at:

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