

Windbreak Pack

Our windbreak pack includes a mixture of quick growing, wind tolerant trees which provide protection and shelter. This pack includes alder, silver birch, beech, scots pine and Sycamore.



Alder: (*Alnus glutinosa*) – Grows to 20-30m tall but can be coppiced to form clumps of smaller stems. As it thrives in wet conditions it retains its green leaves late into the autumn. It is self-pollinating so has slender cylindrical male catkins which are reddish in colour, and shorter dark brown to black more woody female ones similar to some conifer cones. It grows fast and as the leaf stays on late into the autumn it makes an ideal windbreak tree.



Sycamore: (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) – A large tree which can grow to 20 - 35m tall. It is not a native tree, but has become 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 air).



Birch: (*Betula pendula*) – Grows to about 15-25m tall and as the tree grows its branches tend to droop downwards. Not densely branched so makes a good windbreak tree. On the young tree the bark is reddish-brown, but the bark becomes dark grey and silver-white as the tree matures. It produces catkins in early spring before the leaves form, which ripen in late summer.



Beech: (*Fagus sylvatica*) – Can grow as tall as 49m, but more typically 25-35m. It will grow in most well drained soil types and will tolerate rigorous winter cold which makes it suitable for windbreaks. Deciduous, but in protected positions it can retain quite a lot of the dead brown leaves during the winter, particularly on the lower branches.



Scots Pine: (*Pinus sylvestris*) – Grows up to 25m in height with a 1m trunk diameter when mature. It is one of our native conifers and is a valuable evergreen addition to our windbreak pack, and although known as the “Scots” pine it thrives in the south west. After 15-20 years it produces green seed cones which form in the winter, and ripen the following autumn.

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



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

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

If planted 2.5m apart - each tree will take up an area of 6.25 sq.m (2.5m x 2.5m)

So divide 700 sq. m by 6.25 sq.m = 112 trees required. Or

Planted 3m apart - 3m x 3m = 9 sq.m.

Divide 700 sq.m by 9 sq. m = 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 tuffety grass so keeping an open space around the tree will discourage voles from damaging them.

Protecting your trees from rabbis/deer etc.

Once you have made the decision to buy and plant your windbreak, 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:

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