



Biodiversity Factsheet Native Species

What are native species?

Native species are plants that naturally belong to the region. They're perfectly adapted to local climate, soil, and wildlife, and form the backbone of a healthy ecosystem. Planting trees is great – but planting the right trees makes all the difference.

Why native trees matter

Think of native plants as the original members of a band – they know how to play in harmony with the local ecosystem. Native trees support biodiversity by providing food and shelter for insects, birds, and mammals. They're resilient, needing less water and care, and they help fight climate change by storing carbon and regulating water cycles.

Why should we avoid non-native species?

Non-native species are like the new members of the band who do not have the right notes, they may throw the whole band (or ecosystem) off balance. Non-native (or exotic) species can:

- > Disrupt local ecosystems.
- > Outcompete native plants.
- > Offer little to no value for native insects and birds.
- > Sometimes become invasive, harming biodiversity.

Biodiversity is local

Biodiversity isn't one-size-fits-all. A tree that supports pollinators in southern Spain might be ignored in northern Germany. That's why planting regionally native species is key to restoring ecological balance. Here are some of the native trees and hedges we have planted – each plays a unique role in supporting local biodiversity.

Species	Native Status	Benefits	Site Suitability
Carpinus betulus (European Hornbeam)	Native to Germany	Supports insects and birds	Great for hedges and urban spaces; tolerant of pruning and shade
Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' (Littleleaf Linden Cultivar)	Cultivated variety of native Tilia cordata	Attracts pollinators like bees	Urban-friendly; cultivars may support less biodiversity
Quercus robur (English Oak)	Keystone native species	Supports 300+ insect species and many birds	Long-lived and biodiversity-rich
Quercus petraea (Sessile Oak)	Native and drought-tolerant	Supports biodiversity	Prefers well-drained soils
Fagus sylvatica (European Beech)	Native to Northern Germany	Supports insects, fungi, birds; produces beechnuts	Dense foliage for windbreaks and privacy; retains leaves in winter

Why our choice matters

By planting native trees, we're not just greening Forum I & II – we're creating a small but powerful refuge for local biodiversity. Every tree counts.