The G Club magazine from greenwood

**JANUARY 2025** 

# Greenwood

A record-breaking year for our plant donation scheme

Best native hedges for biodiversity

PLANTING INSPIRATION Biodiversity enhancing gardens SUSTAINABILITY

Creating a truly sustainable garden

Plant Focus: Pyracantha

Planting for pest and disease resistance



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# Introduction

BY MANAGING DIRECTOR **MELANIE ASKER** 

A warm welcome to the first edition of G Club magazine in 2025.

With a new year, comes many new opportunities, and at Greenwood, we're ready for a busy year ahead.

We have many plans for 2025, including launching the second phase of our sustainability strategy, and providing a vision to reach Net Zero in the next five years. We'll be busy developing our newest nursery site, Pigeon House Farm, with the creation of new beds and growing space, a project which is already underway.



As part of our end of year visits, we received some brilliant feedback from our clients, upon which we're excited to build as we embark on client visits, host nursery tours, conduct CPD events, and much more moving into the spring.

We're looking forward to continuing to work with you all in 2025. I'd like to wish all of our clients, suppliers, and collaborators a very happy new year.

Melanie Asker Managing Director









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On the cover: *Viburnum tinus* **'Eve Price'**, now available at our Greenwood Choice trade sales centre.

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#### greenwood

# Business update

#### Greenwood completes first deliveries of 3 Million Trees Project

We are delighted to announce that we have completed the first call offs for the 3 Million Trees project, in partnership with National Highways and The Tree Council. The first volunteer-led planting days were held at the end of November, with the native trees being installed in community-backed projects across the country. Greenwood expects to deliver over 400,000 bare root trees as part of the project this season alone!

#### Greenwood Community exceeds 2024 donation target

In November last year, our Greenwood Community initiative, which donates plants to schools, charities, and other non-profit organisations, surpassed its annual target of 24 separate plant donations. The scheme, which has been running since 2021, aims to enhance the green spaces of local communities, providing ecological benefits and areas of enjoyment for the residents. We look forward to contributing to more worthwhile projects in 2025.



#### Greenwood secures tree supply contract to Ipswich Borough Council

In November last year, Greenwood was thrilled to secure a government contract to supply trees with Ipswich Borough Council. It's the third direct supply contract to a public sector entity, after National Highways and Essex County Council. Winning contracts like these are a testament to the G Team's commitment to excellence.

#### John Benfield and Garth Elkins join the G Team

In late 2024, Greenwood welcomed two new members to its ever expanding G Team, adding valuable horticultural knowledge and industry experience. John Benfield joined as Director of Horticulture, providing a wealth of expertise from his previous role as Head of Horticulture for a major herbs producer. Garth Elkins also joins the team as Sales and CPD Coordinator, bringing with him extensive experience in both the horticultural and landscaping industries.

## Best native hedges for biodiversity

Helping to enhance ecosystems with native hedgerows.

#### BY LARA MATTHAMS

Native plants, defined as those naturally occurring within specific regions, like the UK, are adapted to local climates and ecosystems. These plants provide substantial environmental benefits, supporting wildlife such as invertebrates, birds, reptiles, and mammals. Including native species in planting plans will produce greater environmental benefits.





Native hedging serves as a source of food, shelter, nesting sites, and support for pollinators. Mixed native hedgerows are especially beneficial, offering year-round advantages to ecosystems. Hedgerows act as wildlife corridors, allowing animals like birds, hedgehogs and mice to travel safely between habitats. Connecting fragmented habitats is vital for introducing native wildlife to a newly planted green space. They often struggle to keep safe within open spaces, so hedgerows allow them to move from one habitat to another.

Native hedging supports ecosystems down to the microbial level. Microbial communities, which account for 95% of Earth's biodiversity, aid in plant health, stress resistance, and disease prevention. Plants and microbes often form symbiotic relationships, such as those with mycorrhizal fungi. These fungi exchange nutrients with plants in return for sugars derived from photosynthesis, boosting plant growth and resilience.

Deciduous native hedges contribute to soil health by adding organic matter through decomposing leaf litter, retaining moisture, and improving soil structure. Their extensive root systems prevent erosion, enhance water retention, and create stable environments for soil microbes. Additionally, native hedges sequester carbon, transferring CO<sub>2</sub> into the soil for microbial use.

CARPINUS BETULUS

From a maintenance perspective, native hedges are low-maintenance, thriving with minimal intervention. They require less watering, are naturally pest-resistant, and respond well to pruning, making them both environmentally and economically efficient.

The UK government's Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation aims to restore biodiversity through land development. Effective from February 2024, developers must ensure a 10% net gain in biodiversity for 30 years post-development. Biodiversity is quantified using the Biodiversity Metric, which evaluates habitat size, condition, location, and distinctiveness. With the new legislation, developers are required to demonstrate how their plans will increase the biodiversity value of each site.

Mimicking natural habitats, such as wildflower meadows, ponds, and native hedgerows and trees, is important within planning. Trees can be planted individually, in lines, or in groups, and for every tree that's planted, the habitat underneath its canopy is measured separately – resulting in additional biodiversity units.

Native hedging plays a significant role in achieving BNG due to its 'high distinctiveness' rating. This makes it particularly valuable when paired with native trees, as it replaces larger areas of less distinctive habitats. Native hedges provide measurable biodiversity benefits, making them ideal for developments aiming to meet BNG requirements.

Our native hedging recommendations to encourage biodiversity include Carpinus betulus, Cornus sanguinea, Corylus avellana, Crataegus monogyna, Fagus sylvatica, Ligustrum vulgare, Prunus spinosa, Rosa canina, and Viburnum lantana.

#### Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)

A deciduous species with toothed green leaves turning yellow in autumn, with spring catkins that later turn into fruiting catkins. Grows 20-40cm annually. **Height:** Ideal for maintaining at 1.5-5m. **Biodiversity Benefits:** Supports over 170 insect species and provides shelter for birds and mammals. Retains leaves in winter, offering year-round protection for wildlife.

**Growing Conditions:** Thrives in well-drained soil and withstands severe weather.

#### Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood)

An upright shrub with red-green stems, green leaves turn red in autumn, and clusters of white flowers are followed by black berries.

**Height:** Reaches up to 3m in 5-10 years. **Biodiversity Benefits:** Offers food for moths, birds, and mammals. Its leaves and berries attract a range of wildlife.

**Growing Conditions:** Performs well in chalky or wet soils and prefers full sun for vibrant winter bark.

#### Corylus avellana (Hazel)

A deciduous shrub with round green leaves turning yellow in autumn, bears yellow catkins in spring, and edible cob nuts in autumn. **Height:** Suitable for 1-4m hedging. **Biodiversity Benefits:** Provides pollen, shelter, and food. Supports dormice and bird nesting. **Growing Conditions:** Tolerates full sun or partial shade.



CORYLUS AVELLANA



#### Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)

A thorny deciduous shrub with lobed green leaves, with white flowers in spring, and red berries in autumn.

Height: Easily maintained at 1.4-2.5m.
Biodiversity Benefits: Thrushes and other birds feed on its berries and nest in its thorny branches.
Flowers and foliage support insects.
Growing Conditions: Prefers full sun and most soil types.

#### Fagus sylvatica (Beech)

A deciduous tree with yellow-green leaves transitioning to copper-bronze in autumn. Leaves persist through winter. **Height:** Maintain at 1-5m height. **Biodiversity Benefits:** Provides food for moth caterpillars, mice, birds, and squirrels. **Growing Conditions:** Thrives in various soils but avoid waterlogged or very dry conditions.

#### Ligustrum vulgare (Wild Privet)

A bushy deciduous species with lance-shaped green leaves, white flowers, and purple-black berries.

Height: Maintain at 1-4m height. Biodiversity Benefits: Berries attract blackbirds, thrushes and even waxwings, whilst flowers provide nectar for pollinators. Growing Conditions: Grows well in well-drained soil, in full sun or partial shade.

#### Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)

A deciduous shrub with spiny branches, dark green leaves, white spring blossoms, and autumn sloe berries.

Height: Maintain at 1-4m height. Biodiversity Benefits: Hosts moths, provides nesting sites for birds, and supports pollinators. Growing Conditions: Prefers sunny, moist, but well-drained soils.

#### Rosa canina (Dog Rose)

A fast-growing, deciduous, arching rose with green foliage, pale pink flowers in summer, and red rose hips in autumn.

Height: Grows to 1-3m.

Biodiversity Benefits: Flowers support pollinators, whilst rose hips feed birds in winter. Growing Conditions: Tolerates most soils and coastal locations.

#### Viburnum lantana (Wayfaring Tree)

A deciduous, upright shrub with grey-green leaves, white tubular flowers, and red berries ripening to black.

Height: Maintain at 1-3m height. Biodiversity Benefits: Supports over 30 insect species, including bees, beetles, and orange-tailed clearwing moths. Birds feed on its berries. Growing Conditions: Thrives in well-drained soil and full sun.

Native hedging is essential for promoting biodiversity and meeting BNG goals. Incorporating a mix of native species provides year-round ecological benefits, supports wildlife, and enhances soil health. Selecting species that thrive in local conditions ensures sustainable growth and minimal maintenance, making native hedges a cornerstone of ecological landscaping.

Greenwood Plants has a great mix of bare root native hedging currently available for delivery. Contact the sales team for more information.

FAGUS SYLVATICA HEDGE



PLANTING INSPIRATION:

# Biodiversity enhancing garden

**BY ELLIE COUTTS** 

Biodiversity refers to the variety of microorganisms, plants, and animals in an ecosystem and how the species interact which each other. It is important that we maintain healthy ecosystems because a reduction in biodiversity can result in the loss of habitats and living organisms on which we rely to provide us with the air we breathe and the food we eat.

Humans negatively impact biodiversity through pollution, change of land use, exploitation of natural resources and introduction of invasive species. In the UK, wildlife has declined by 19% since the 1970s, despite the introduction of legislation to protect it. New Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) regulations became mandatory in England on 12th February 2024 and require developers to leave the natural habitat in a better state than before.

Fortunately, every garden and green space offers an opportunity to encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity. Plants are the foundation of a garden's ecosystem and encourage invertebrates, amphibians, birds, and mammals to thrive. There are several strategies that can be applied to optimise biodiversity.

A variety of plants that appeal to pollinators are vital for enhancing biodiversity as they provide food sources throughout the year. By attracting and sustaining pollinators, flowering plants ensure that their successful pollination results in the production of fruits and seeds that sustain many animal species, including humans. By planting native species we can retain the regional character of the natural environment and support indigenous wildlife throughout the year.

Trees and shrubs provide vital shelter for wildlife and support to climbing plants, like ivy. They often offer nectar and fruit to animals. Leaving grass to grow long creates a haven for insects which in turn provide a source of food to amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. Allowing leaf litter and dead wood to collect on the ground will offer foraging, shelter, and hibernation opportunities for animals and ideal conditions for fungi.



POLYSTICHUM SETIFERUM

Adding bug hotels provide homes for a variety of insects and compost heaps encourage decomposers like worms, bacteria, and fungi. Installing bird feeders, nest boxes, and bat boxes will encourage birds and bats into the area which in turn will provide natural control of insects. A small pond can support a wide variety of fish, amphibians, beetles, and flies. Birds and mammals enjoy water, not just to drink, but to clean themselves.

Plants that we traditionally see as weeds, like dandelions, nettles, and brambles, provide essential sources of pollen, nectar, seeds, and fruit. It is beneficial to leave some areas of the garden untended and to avoid use of pesticides and herbicides – biological pest control methods can be utilised instead.

Connecting the green space with the surrounding environment, via wooded areas, hedges, ponds, or simply gaps in fences, provides wildlife with corridors to move freely. By creating a wildlife-friendly environment, we can enhance the ecological value of a garden and enjoy a space rich in biodiversity, where wildlife thrives amongst the plants.

Starting at the back of the planting plan (please refer overleaf), we have included Cornus sanguinea (1), Viburnum opulus (2), Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price' (3), Corvlus avellana (4), and Polystichum setiferum (5). Cornus sanguinea (1) is an upright native shrub with ovate, green leaves that mature to red in autumn, on red-green stems. It blooms clusters of white flowers in spring to summer, and black berries follow in autumn. Viburnum opulus (2) is a low maintenance, vigorous native shrub with maplelike leaves that provide autumn colour, and snowball-like clusters of white, or green tinted flowers that appear in late spring. Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price' (3) is an evergreen shrub with clusters of pink buds that open into white flowers, followed by blue-black spring berries. *Corylus avellana* (4) is a large native shrub with green, rounded foliage that transitions to yellow in autumn. It blooms yellow catkins in spring and edible nuts in autumn. Polystichum setiferum (5) is a large, native, evergreen, tufted fern with dark green, softly arching fronds and orangebrown stalks. The fronds emerge upright in habit until they unfurl and open.





In the middle of the planting plan, we have included *Euonymus japonicus* 'Microphyllus' **(6)**, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. repens* **(7)**, *Geranium* × *johnsonii* 'Johnson's Blue' **(8)**, *Iris pseudacorus* **(9)**, *Tellima grandiflora* **(10)**, *Libertia grandiflora* **(11)**, and *Ruscus aculeatus* **(12)**. *Euonymus japonicus* 'Microphyllus' **(6)** is a slow-growing evergreen shrub with a dense habit and glossy, deep green leaves.

It is an excellent alternative to *Buxus sempervirens* and ideal for creating a low hedge with year-round structure. *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *repens* (7) is a low-growing, mound-forming shrub that produces fluffy, light blue flowers in spring and early summer. Its nectar-rich blooms attract pollinators, and it thrives in sunny, sheltered spots, adding a flowing appearance to the middle of borders.

Geranium × johnsonii 'Johnson's Blue' (8) is a clump-forming perennial that features masses of dark-veined, lavender-blue flowers above deeply lobed, mid-green leaves. The flowers transition to grey as they mature, and the plant creates a dense carpet of foliage loved by butterflies. Iris pseudacorus (9) is a vigorous native perennial with clumps of green foliage and striking bright yellow flowers, making it a fantastic addition to wildlife gardens, especially near ponds or streams. Tellima grandiflora (10) is a versatile groundcover plant with rosettes of hairy, scalloped green leaves and tall racemes of cream flowers that fade to pink. It pairs beautifully with hostas and ferns in shaded areas, adding texture and interest. Libertia grandiflora (11) is a clump-forming grass with narrow, swordlike, dark green leaves and upright stems bearing white, bowl-shaped flowers. It is perfect for gravel gardens or sunny borders, where it contributes an architectural touch. Ruscus aculeatus (12) is a bushy, rhizomatous native sub-shrub with glossy, dark green, spiny foliage that flowers in spring and produces red berries on female plants in summer and autumn, offering year-round interest and textural contrast.

At the front of the planting plan, we have *Festuca* glauca (13), Waldsteinia ternata (14), and Geranium × johnsonii 'Johnson's Blue' (8). Festuca glauca (13) is an evergreen, dwarf grass that forms upright, dense tussocks of stiff, blue, needle-like foliage with flowerheads that appear in summer and turn a soft buff colour. It is ideal for containers or the front of borders, where it provides striking colour and texture. Waldsteinia ternata (14) is a spreading perennial with lobed, glossy, green foliage and an abundance of bright yellow, saucershaped flowers from spring to summer.

RUSCUS ACULEATUS



GERANIUM × JOHNSONII 'JOHNSON'S BLUE'

It works well as groundcover or underplanting for shrubs, adding vibrant colour to sheltered areas. *Geranium* × *johnsonii* 'Johnson's Blue' (8) reappears at the front, where its dense carpet of lavenderblue flowers and mid-green foliage creates a harmonious connection across the planting scheme.

If you'd like more information on any of these plants we grow and sell, please contact the G Team.



# Greenwood

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# Creating a truly sustainable garden

Reducing our environmental impact whilst creating a beautiful green space.

BY LARA MATTHAMS



Sustainable gardening has grown in popularity as people aim to reduce their environmental impact and address rising living costs. By adopting eco-friendly practices such as water conservation, composting, using peat-free growing media, and planting native species, gardeners can reduce their carbon footprint, support biodiversity, improve soil health, and reduce water usage.

Planting native perennials, shrubs, and trees is essential for biodiversity. Native species, which naturally evolve in specific regions, provide vital food and shelter for local wildlife, including pollinators. A variety of native plants blooming at different times of the year ensures year-round support for pollinators and visual appeal for gardens. Invertebrates, critical to ecosystems, benefit greatly from native plants. Exotic species, in contrast, support 20% fewer invertebrates. Incorporating features, like bug hotels, further supports these creatures by providing breeding and shelter spaces. Supporting invertebrates can also provide natural pest control; for example, ladybirds help to control the aphid population. Bug hotels can be crafted from natural materials such as twigs, leaves, and pinecones, making autumn an ideal time for their creation.

Native plants also offer practical benefits: they are low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, and pestresistant, reducing the need for watering, fertilisers, and pest control. Once established, they require only occasional pruning and mulching.



#### SANTOLINA CHAMAECYPARISSUS

Peat, a finite resource formed over centuries, is highly carbon-rich. Peat extraction damages peatlands, releasing significant amounts of  $CO_2$  and contributing to 5% of human-caused annual carbon emissions. With a UK ban on the sale and commercial use of peat-based growing media coming into effect by 2024 and 2026 respectively, switching to peat-free alternatives like coir, wood fibre, and green waste is essential.

Greenwood Plants is proud to be 100% peat-free growers across all nursery sites, demonstrating that sustainable practices can achieve excellent results.

Composting breaks down organic matter, such as food scraps and garden waste, into nutrientrich fertiliser. This reduces landfill waste and methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming. Compost improves soil health, enhancing its water retention capacity and providing essential nutrients like nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus.

Given that 33% of the world's food is wasted, composting is a simple way to reduce environmental impact whilst creating healthier gardens.

Climate change has made water conservation a priority as our rainfall is becoming less predictable. We should be trying to utilise water as best we can by adapting our garden design, using drought tolerant plant species, and recycling water. Reducing the amount of lawn area is key as grass requires a substantial amount of water to maintain. Alternatives include natural meadows, gravel gardens, or xeriscaping, which incorporates drought-tolerant plants like *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii, Perovskia* 'Blue Spire', and *Santolina chamaecyparissus*. You can also utilise plant zoning, where specific plants are grouped according to their water needs.

Rain garden planting schemes are an excellent way to conserve water as they capture runoff, allowing rainwater to naturally infiltrate the soil. They can successfully cope with the rainfall from an equivalent surface area of around five times the size. Rain gardens require well-draining soil, and they should be positioned in a naturally low area of the garden.

Rainwater harvesting is another effective strategy. Water can be collected from rooftops using gutters and water butts, which should be cleaned annually to prevent disease. Established plants thrive on harvested rainwater, reducing reliance on treated tap water.

Grey water – wastewater from washing machines, baths or sinks – can also be used, though it should be applied sparingly and not on edible plants. This reduces strain on sewage systems and further conserves resources.



Watering early in the morning or late at night maximises the amount of water that reaches the roots of the plants, due to not evaporating during the daytime heat. Lastly, adding organic matter to plants can reduce watering needs, as it holds onto water for longer, and keeps plants hydrated.

Plants reduce air temperature through shading and transpiration, where water evaporates from leaves. Strategically planting trees, shrubs, and climbers can cool homes during summer and insulate them during winter, improving energy efficiency. For example, planting small deciduous trees on the south side of homes will block summer heat whilst allowing winter sun. Taller trees can be planted close to the

or west of the house, at a distance of around 1.5 times the tree's eventual EUPHORBIA CHARACIAS SUBSP. WULFENII height. This is to ensure they block the sun later in the day, but will also avoid the risk of any leaves, twigs, or branches falling onto the roof. Shrubs and climbers can be used to provide insulation and wind protection.

Research conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) found sustainable gardening to be beneficial for individuals who practise it, as well as the environment. This research was published in 'Urban Forestry and Urban Greening', and 83% of its gardening participants found the activity positive for their overall health and wellbeing, including mental health and physical health. Those who stated that they actively supported wildlife, or reduced their own environmental footprint, felt they had higher overall health and wellbeing benefits.

Some other suggested benefits from sustainable gardening include wider or stronger social network bonds incorporating nature connectedness, providing a higher degree of continuous learning, and a sense of extended care-giving to the wider environment. Examples of extended care involve irrigation using a watering can, weeding by hand, and making compost. There are a huge range of benefits involved in sustainable gardening, which bring value to individuals, wildlife, and the planet.

Greenwood is an award-winning sustainability leader committed to supporting sustainable landscapes. To find out more about Greenwood's latest sustainability efforts, head to our dedicated sustainability website page greenwoodplants.co.uk/ sustainability.

> PERSICARIA BISTORTA 'SUPERBA'



# Planting for pest and disease resistance

Choosing plants to ensure the longterm health of green spaces.

BY CHRIS WILLIAMS

ver the past 20 years, the global travel Oand shipping industries have seen a massive increase in size, due to reduced costs of travel, and a more globalised society. In the UK horticulture industry, it has allowed greater availability of plants and trees, as well as access to a larger variety of different species, at a reduced cost of importation. With this, however, has come an increase in the spread of invasive pests and diseases. When a pest or disease arrives into an ecosystem to which it is non-native, it is more effective in attacking and destroying the local plant life, as there has been no evolution in the plants to resist these particular threats. This makes the risk of diseases which are introduced via imported plants very serious.

Steps have been taken in the UK to help mitigate the spread of foreign threats to our ecosystems, including strict border checks, plant passports, which ensure regular checks have taken place on every plant, and the 'Plant Healthy' scheme, which recognises horticultural businesses who take biosecurity seriously, and have strict procedures in place to ensure the highest standards are maintained. Despite this, there has been a significant rise in the number of outbreaks of pests and diseases in the UK over the last 20 years, with multiple threats causing widespread damage to native ecosystems. There are many organisations with a specific purpose to help identify and contain the spread of these invasive pests and diseases,





such as DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency), PHSI (Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate), as well as The Forestry Commission. One of the best ways in which to prevent the spread, however, is by carefully selecting plants for projects, taking into account their ability to resist current biosecurity threats. In this article, we will identify the most abundant invasive threats to the

(TOP) *ILEX CRENATA* (LEFT) OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH

UK ecosystems, as well as the common plants which are most vulnerable to each pest or disease, and suggest alternatives which are more resistant, and not only help to prevent the further spread of these threats, but to help ensure the long term survival of native ecosystems.

Box blight is a disease which primarily affects the Buxus genus, most notably, the common UK native hedging plant Buxus sempervirens. The first recorded case of box blight was in the mid-1990s in the UK, and since then, it has been recorded all over the planet. It is caused by two very closely related fungi, Calonectria pseudonaviculata and Calonectria henricotiae, which attack the leaves and stems of the plant, eventually causing browned leaves, and dieback of the plant. There isn't currently a known cure; it can be controlled, but requires extensive care and maintenance to isolate it and prevent further spread. This can prove to be difficult when planting in homes or public spaces which do not have a regular, ongoing maintenance programme. With the problems caused by not only box blight, but the box tree caterpillars and box sucker pests, many garden designers have been forced to move away from the use of box, in order to ensure resilient, healthy green spaces.



HEBE BLACK SPOT

Fortunately, there are a number of alternative options with dense foliage which can be used to replace *Buxus. Ilex crenata* has a dense growth habit, with small glossy foliage which resembles that of *Buxus*. It's slow growing, meaning it's easy to clip into shape, making it perfect for topiary, or to form a neat hedge. *Euonymus japonicus* 'Jean Hughes' is a low maintenance alternative, and tolerant of salt, making it great for most applications, including coastal hedge planting. Another variety of *Euonymus japonicus* is 'Green Spire' – A bushy evergreen shrub which is a perfect option for hedging, and grows well in most locations. Oak processionary moth (OPM) is a pest originating from Southern Europe, and was first discovered in the UK in 2005. It has since established in London and the surrounding area. The moth builds nests within the English oak tree (*Quercus robur*), and the young caterpillars feed off the bark. Whilst it is not a direct threat to the tree itself, causing little to no harm, it does however pose a health risk to humans. The caterpillars of the oak processionary moth have small venomous hairs, which cause serious irritations to human skin, and in some serious cases, if ingested, can lead to asthma.

The outbreak of OPM has led to DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) restricting the importation of many species of oak, particularly from OPM affected countries. As a result, sourcing oak trees from European growers has become a difficult task, often requiring alternative solutions to meet the demands of fast-paced projects. Fortunately, there are many large growing UK native trees which can serve a similar purpose to oaks, without the threat of spreading this dangerous pest. A couple of our recommendations include Carpinus betulus, a large growing, UK native deciduous tree, which develops a fluted grey trunk, and *Tilia* × *europaea*, a large, deciduous UK native tree which can grow up to 30m in height. Both trees grow well in most conditions, as well as reaching similar heights to oak trees, making them ideal alternatives to oak.

ASH DIEBACK FUNGUS. SYMPTOMS OF ASCOMYCETE PATHOGENIC FUNGUS CAUSING LEAF LOSS ON *FRAXINUS EXCELSIOR* 



XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA



Hebe black spot is a fungal disease that affects the leaves of Hebe plants. It is caused by the fungus Septoria exotica, which creates small, dark brown or purple spots on the leaves, which can merge and enlarge, often leading to premature leaf fall and reduced plant vigour. The disease is most noticeable from late spring and can cause significant aesthetic damage to the plant. Hebe varieties are a staple in landscaping projects all over the UK, being a reliable choice for dense, evergreen shrubs and in some cases as an informal hedge. Species that are commonly affected by the disease include Hebe albicans, Hebe pinguifolia, Hebe rakaiensis, and Hebe 'Red Edge'. The disease can be managed by being vigilant, being sure to cut any infected stems to avoid spreading. This makes the plant higher maintenance, which is less ideal when being planted in private gardens, or in areas without a regular maintenance programme. Thankfully, there are many species of Hebe which have been bred specifically to be more resistant to this disease, including Hebe 'Great Orme', Hebe 'Wiri Charm', and Hebe 'Wiri Mist'.

Ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) is a serious fungal disease spreading across Europe, which is expected to wipe out almost 80% of all ash species in the UK alone. In the UK, the most affected species are Fraxinus excelsior (common ash) and Fraxinus angustifolia (narrow leaved ash). The disease spreads through fungal spores, which can be blown by the wind, potentially infecting any tree within the zone of spread. It lands on and infiltrates the tree through the leaves, eventually growing inside the water systems, blocking the tree's water access, leading to its death. The disease, believed to have originated in Asia, was first diagnosed in 1992 in Poland, and first recorded in the UK in 2012. The disease presents in many ways, including black spots on the leaves, discolouring of the tree beneath the bark, and necrotic spots on the stems. The disease can take a season to fully kill the tree,

but the damage will become evident quickly, as the new shoots and leaves begin to dieback, before the crown of the tree eventually dies. This poses a major risk to the UK's ecosystem, as according to the National Forestry Inventory for Great Britain, ash species make up 11% of all broadleaf trees in the UK, and 5% of all trees in total. Such a loss of habitat would be disastrous for native wildlife.

There are many alternatives to species affected by ash dieback, including *Sorbus aucuparia* (mountain ash) and *Acer pseudoplatanus* (sycamore). *Sorbus aucuparia* is a UK native that is resistant to the effects of ash dieback. Also known as rowan, it is a tall, broadly conical deciduous tree, with pinnate leaves which turn red in autumn. It produces white flowers in spring, followed by orange berries in autumn. *Acer pseudoplatanus* is a British native deciduous tree, with broad, multiple-lobed leaves. It's highly rated by ecologists for its ability to replace the function of ash trees for insects, moss, and lichen.

*Xylella fastidiosa* is a bacterial disease that arrived into the country via coffee plants imported from Costa Rica. It spreads via leaf hopping insects, which inject the bacteria whilst feeding. The bacteria cells block the water vessels of the leaves, causing total failure of the plant. Not only is it difficult to spot, but there are currently no known cures or treatments for the bacteria. Over 320 different genera of plants are known to be vulnerable, with the highest risk being Lavandula, Rosmarinus officinalis, Olea europaea, and Prunus dulcis. It is currently spreading across areas of Spain, Portugal, Southern France, and Italy. Whilst it is not considered to be an outbreak in the UK, there are extremely strict measures in place to prevent its spread; once it is identified, a large guarantine area must be set up, 5km in diameter from the infected site.

Whilst it is not yet suggested to limit the planting of vulnerable species, care must be taken when





importing plants from regions where Xylella has been reported. In particular, olive trees (*Olea europaea*) are subject to rigorous checks, and must be issued with individual plant passports before being exported from Xylella-affected countries.

The best way to protect our native species from invasive foreign threats is to maintain strict and rigorous biosecurity standards. There are many examples of outbreaks of pests in the UK from seemingly innocuous sources, which have led to widespread habitat loss. Currently, UK football pitches are facing an outbreak of *Meloidogyne fallax* (root knot nematodes). It's a microscopic worm that attacks the roots of many of our food crops, and its origin in the UK has been traced back to a single turf machine, which was loaned to Brazil for the 2014 world cup, and returned without being cleaned. The nematodes were transported on the machine, and subsequently made their way into the British ecosystem via the machine's use on local football pitches, and transported to different sites on the boots of players. It is an example of such a seemingly small oversight leading to potentially larger consequences. Vigilance is of the upmost importance to all who handle imported plants in the UK, to ensure that we protect our green spaces from potential ecological devastation.

Greenwood is proud to be Plant Healthy certified, through the national scheme which assesses and accredits horticultural businesses based on their ability to uphold strict biosecurity measures. The nursery and transport team have all been trained to operate to these guidelines, being alert to any potential threats on imported plants, and implementing strict procedures with regards to the handling and checking of all plants and trees. Greenwood recognises the importance of protecting native species from the threat of invasive posts and diseases, and ensures that every plant sold has undergone sufficient inspection to ensure they are disease and pest free.



## At Greenwood Plants we care about sustainability.

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G Cycle helps you save time and money whilst contributing to your sustainability goals.

Learn more by visiting our dedicated web-page: greenwoodplants.co.uk/g-cycle/





LEFT: MAHONIA × MEDIA 'CHARITY' BOTTOM: SKIMMIA JAPONICA 'RUBELLA'

# Planting for winter interest

Bringing colour to the bleaker months.

BY LARA MATTHAMS

Winter is often considered to be a difficult time of year for plants, with colder weather and darker days leading to many varieties lacking colour to brighten up a planting scheme. However, careful planning and consideration when making planting choices can ensure a beautiful landscape all year round.

Colour comes in many forms, whether it's from vibrant stems, flowers, berries, or foliage, and many plants can provide interest through a variation of these. In addition to the visual benefits of flowers, selecting those that are highly scented adds an extra dimension to green spaces. These plants in particular are great for planting near entrances and seating areas, to fully appreciate the scent. Many plants for winter interest can be useful for planting in containers. This means that their position can be changed throughout the year to give them a more prominent position in your green space, depending on when they are looking their best. Some will require slightly more winter protection, so container planting means you can give them a more sheltered position, particularly at this time of year. Grouping container plants together can provide a stunning effect, and also bring additional protection from extreme temperatures.

As well as the aesthetic appeal, plants with winter colour can be vital for supporting local ecosystems. For example, many winter flowering plants are able to provide a rich supply of nectar and pollen. Nectar is sugar water that a variety of insects, such as bees, wasps, and butterflies, consume to give them the energy they need to mate and nest, whilst pollen is a source of protein that young bees are fed, providing them with the nutrients they need to grow healthily. Bees, in particular, are essential in supporting food production, and maintaining the balance of ecosystems, so planting with them in mind is extremely important.

The following plants are some of our favourites for providing winter interest in your green space.

Hardy cyclamen, such as *Cyclamen hederifolium*, are a great option for winter planting. *Cyclamen hederifolium* is a perennial that blooms upright, pink or white flowers from autumn, with a carpet of heart-shaped, marbled leaves until spring. This perennial is great for containers, groundcover, and underplanting trees, and prefers a sheltered position in light shade. Grows to a compact height of 10cm.

Commonly known as Christmas rose, *Helleborus niger* is a clump-forming perennial that boasts dark green leathery leaves with white or pink-flushed flat-faced flowers from winter to spring. It's ideal for growing in the front of borders, and prefers moist but well-drained soil, in a sheltered, partially shaded position.

*Ilex aquifolium* is a slow growing, native evergreen species with spiny, green foliage and a bushy habit. Depending on the variety, it can grow up to 10m in height. *Ilex aquifolium* blooms white flowers from late spring or summer and pollinated female plants produce vibrant red berries in autumn and winter. Suitable for growing as hedging, a clipped bush, or as a specimen.

Jasminum nudiflorum is a deciduous shrub with arching branches, small leaves, bright green stems, and bright yellow flowers from winter to spring. This versatile climber is great for being trained upwards, and can scramble over low walls. Jasminum nudiflorum prefers a full sun to partially shaded, sheltered position, in well-drained soil. Grows up to around 3m in height.

Lonicera fragrantissima is a winter-flowering deciduous to semi-evergreen shrub that has ovate, dark green, purple tinged leaves and creamwhite, fragrant flowers from December to March, which are loved by bumblebees. Red berries can occasionally appear after. Lonicera fragrantissima prefers full sun or partial shade, and will produce an abundance of flowers when trained against a sunny wall. Ideal for planting within a cottage garden.







TOP: HELLEBORUS NIGER LEFT: ILEX AQUIFOLIUM RIGHT: JASMINUM NUDIFLORUM A vibrant addition in winter, *Mahonia* × *media* 'Charity' is an upright evergreen with spikes of pale yellow flowers above rosettes of spiky, dark green leaves. Its fragrant flowers bloom from November to March, and these provide an excellent source of nectar during winter. After flowering, *Mahonia* × *media* 'Charity' produces blue-black berries that are loved by birds. Growing up to 4m in height, *Mahonia* × *media* 'Charity' is ideal for adding architectural interest. Lovely for planting in shaded or partially shaded flower borders and beds, in most soil types.

Osmanthus × burkwoodii is a slow growing, rounded shrub with dark green, leathery leaves. Boasts clusters of small, white, highly scented flowers in spring, followed by black fruits in autumn. Osmanthus × burkwoodii prefers full sun or partial shade, and produces more flowers in sunny positions. Grows up to 3m in height and works well in a woodland garden theme.

Sarcococca confusa is a dense, bushy evergreen shrub with glossy, dark green leaves and sweetly fragranced white flowers in winter. It also produces berries in summer. It is very tolerant of dry shade and urban pollution, and works well as part of a cottage or wildlife garden. Being highly fragranced, Sarcococca confusa is ideal for planting along pathways, and can also be grown in containers. Grows up to 2m in height.

A striking plant with multiple seasons of interest, *Skimmia japonica* 'Rubella' is a compact evergreen shrub with glossy green, red margined leaves. From autumn, it produces clusters of red flower buds, which eventually open as fragrant white flowers in spring. Ideal for growing in a pot or for filling in gaps in borders. Prefers partial sun or full shade, in a sheltered position.

*Viburnum tinus* is a fragrant winter evergreen shrub that boasts clusters of white flowers, which are followed by blue-black berries in spring. *Viburnum tinus* is a long flowering plant that provides winter interest for shaded spots. It grows up to 3m in height, and is ideal for screening and hedging, as well as growing in a container.

To discuss your winter planting requirements, get in touch with the G Team.

# Plant focus: Pyracantha

A low maintenance planting option with a long season of interest.

**BY LARA MATTHAMS** 

**P***vracantha* is a genus of large, thorny evergreen shrubs that are part of the *Rosaceae* family of plants. Originating from Southwest Europe to Southeast Asia, *Pyracantha* displays multiple seasons of interest with its small bright green leaves, clusters of white flowers from late spring to early summer, and showy autumn berries in a range of vibrant colours, including red, orange, or yellow. *Pyracantha* is related to *Cotoneaster, Photinia*, and *Crataegus*, but features thorny stems and serrated leaf edges.

Commonly known as firethorn, *Pyracantha* is usually grown as a specimen shrub, hedging, or

trained against a wall or fence. *Pyracantha* is also the perfect candidate for an espalier. An espalier is the practice of training shrubs and fruit trees into horizontal lines, against fences, for example. If *Pyracantha* has been grown as hedging, it can be shaped to create a formal appearance, or left to its natural, bushy shape. The thorny stems and dense structure of *Pyracantha* helps to deter intruders, and it can also help to reduce noise and provide a windbreak. Taller varieties of *Pyracantha* can reach around 4m, but there are more compact varieties too, and it can easily be maintained at 1-3m for hedging. It grows fairly quickly, at around 30-60cm per year, so is great for providing screening or privacy if needed.

Pyracantha encourages biodiversity in a number of ways. Its flowers are rich in nectar and support a wide range of pollinating insects. Its density makes it ideal as a site Fun fact: The name for birds to nest and use for Pyracantha was derived shelter. Pyracantha berries are from the Greek language, a useful food source, although with "pyr" meaning fire, birds tend to show preference and "akantha" meaning towards varieties with red or thorn. orange berries. The berries usually hang on until the latter part of winter, as the frost helps them to ripen and become more enjoyable before the birds begin their winter feast.

Species and varieties of *Pyracantha* that we

recommend include Pyracantha coccinea 'Red Cushion', Pyracantha coccinea 'Red Column', Pyracantha 'Orange Glow, Pyracantha rogersiana 'Flava', Pyracantha Saphyr Rouge ('Cadrou'), and Pyracantha Saphyr Jaune ('Cadaune').

Pyracantha coccinea 'Red Cushion' is a low and spreading evergreen shrub that has dark green leaves on spiny branches, and blooms clusters of small white flowers in spring, followed by masses of red berries.



It is ideal for growing against walls and fences, as well as in containers. It's a compact variety that grows up to 1.2m in height. Pyracantha coccinea 'Red Column' is an upright, dense evergreen shrub that grows up to 2.5m in height, with spiny branches that bear glossy green leaves. Produces clusters of small white flowers in early summer, followed by shiny red berries in autumn; these last into winter. It's great for growing as a hedge, or for training against a wall. Pyracantha 'Orange Glow' is a large, spiny evergreen shrub with an upright habit and glossy dark green leaves. In early summer it bears clusters of small, white flowers that are attractive to pollinating insects. From autumn, it produces bright orange berries. Growing up to 2.5m in height, *Pyracantha* 'Orange Glow' is great for year-round screening. Its dense structure makes it ideal for planting along boundaries, and useful for nesting birds. Pyracantha rogersiana 'Flava' is an arching variety with dark green, narrow leaves. It blooms clusters of cream-white flowers from late spring, with bright yellow-orange berries in autumn. Growing to around 3m in height, Pyracantha rogersiana 'Flava' is ideal for hedging and being trained against a wall.

The following plants are 'Saphyr' varieties, which have the added benefit of being more disease resistant than other species in the genus. *Pyracantha Saphyr Rouge* ('Cadrou') is a spiny, upright evergreen shrub with dark green narrow leaves, that later transitions to a spreading growth habit. Blooms white flowers from late spring and produces red-orange autumn berries. It's generally grown for its berries, as these provide vibrant colour during the colder months of the year. Can be grown as a specimen, hedging, or against a wall, and grows up to around 3m in height. *Pyracantha Saphyr Jaune* ('Cadaune') is an evergreen shrub that grows up to 3m in height, with spiny branches that bear dark green leaves, clusters of small white flowers in late spring, and bright yellow-gold berries from autumn to winter. A versatile plant, *Pyracantha Saphyr Jaune* ('Cadaune') is ideal for growing as hedging, a specimen shrub, or for training up a wall.

Generally, *Pyracantha* is a low maintenance planting option; it does best in full sun and partial shade, however, planting in full sun will produce the most flowers and berries. Any time of year is suitable for planting, but spring or autumn are most ideal. *Pyracantha* can tolerate any soils, as long as it's not waterlogged.

When it's planted, *Pyracantha* requires regular watering until it's fully established. From this point it's relatively drought tolerant, but will benefit from sporadic watering. If it's trained against a wall or fence, however, then it will need periodic watering to thrive. Plant feed can be used annually in late winter, and then followed by mulch of well-rotted organic matter.

In spring, prune any areas as required to keep its shape. In late summer, any sideshoots can be pruned just shy of its berries, to ensure these are as pronounced as possible. *Pyracantha* flowers on the previous year's wood, so it's important to keep as much of this whilst carrying out any pruning. Due to its sharp thorns, always wear thick gloves to avoid injury.

*Pyracantha* can be affected by a number of pests and diseases, including aphid, woolly aphid, brown scale, pyracantha leaf-mining moth, fireblight, and pyracantha scab.

Aphids are a parasitic insect that suck the sap from ornamental plants and cover them with honeydew. Over time, the leaves will become suffocated as they wilt and curl, and harmful fungi and insects become attracted to the plant. Aphids can usually be controlled and eliminated by natural predators, however, if this is not successful, then biological products can used.

Woolly aphids are a black aphid that sucks sap from the woody stems of plants. It creates lumps on the stems, and during the hotter months of the year, colonies will appear in white fluff on trunks and branches; this is what distinguishes them from other aphids. You can control populations of woolly aphid by removing them by hand. Encouraging wildlife can also help to control these pests.

Active all year round, brown scale is a sap-sucking insect that usually lives on stems of many different woody plants. If present, dark brown shells will be visible on woody stems, and if the infestation is heavy, plants may have a black sooty mould that appears on the excreted honeydew. As small populations of scale insects do not cause harm, it's best to tolerate them and not intervene. Encouraging predators into your green space, such as ladybirds, will help to keep populations of brown scale under control. Adult scales and eggs can also be removed by hand.

Pyracantha leaf-mining moths were first discovered in 1989, and have continued to spread throughout areas of Britain. Affecting *Pyracantha* during the months of January to March, the caterpillars of these moths feed inside the foliage, and this leads to oval-shaped mines developing, which are silverwhite in colour. These do not have much impact on the plant's long-term health, so it does not require any methods of control. Natural enemies, such as parasitoid wasps, will help to keep them under control.

A contagious disease of plants in the *Rosaceae* family, fireblight kills the shoots of ornamentals and is most apparent from late spring until autumn. It favours areas with high moisture, and the disease leads to wilted and dead flowers, shrivelled shoots that eventually die, and bark that develops a red-brown stain. If signs of fireblight are apparent, remove any parts of the plant that are infected. Ensure to thoroughly clean tools between cuts and before using on any other plants, to reduce the spread.

Pyracantha scab is a fungal disease that affects various parts of *Pyracantha* from spring until autumn. If this disease is present then flower loss, leaf fall, and disfigured fruit will be evident. Unsightly black scabs will also be visible on fruit. If pyracantha scab is spotted then any affected shoots can be pruned. Good hygiene is important to prevent pyracantha scab, including collecting any fallen leaves, and ensure to remove any infected parts of the plant. The 'Saphyr' varieties mentioned in this article are resistant to pyracantha scab, making these ideal species to grow.

PYRACANTHA 'ORANGE GLOW'







BY CHRIS WILLIAMS

STUDENTS FROM THE SEND FOUNDATION AT CHICHESTER COLLEGE VISITING OUR FRESH ACRES NURSERY SITE

**O**024 was a fruitful year for our plant **L** donation scheme, having been fortunate to work not just with some of our frequent collaborators, but with many new organisations as well. We were pleased to announce that we exceeded our annual target of 24 Greenwood community project donations last year. From ecological initiatives, to local schools, hospices and more, it was a privilege to be able to contribute to some truly worthwhile projects. Below is an update on the final projects of 2024.



#### Sussex Green Living

In September, Greenwood partnered with local non-profit environmental organisation Sussex Green Living, to provide plants to a series of projects across the county. The group builds 'Pollinator Education Stations', which are installed in schools to help teach children about the importance of biodiversity and our environment. Greenwood has supplied bulbs and pollinator friendly plants to five different projects so far, with many more donations planned for projects in the future. Carrie Cort, the Founder and CEO of Sussex Green Living, said "It's been fantastic working with Greenwood Plants, they've been a great help, and I look forward to working more with them in the spring".

#### **Chestnut Tree House** Hospice

In early November, Greenwood donated plants to frequent collaborators Chestnut Tree House Hospice, near Arundel in West Sussex. The hospice specialises in care for children, providing much needed care and comfort for them and their families, both on-site and in their homes. The hospice is twinned with the larger St Barnabas Hospice, located nearby, with which Greenwood also frequently collaborate. The donation is Greenwood's third of the year, and will be used to freshen up some of the green spaces on the hospice grounds, which provide many benefits for the patients to enjoy.

#### **Chichester SEND Foundation**

Recently, Greenwood was delighted to welcome students from the SEND foundation at Chichester College to our Fresh Acres nursery site. As well as collecting a donation of plants, the group were taken for a tour, learning about how we grow and dispatch our plants. The foundation, who are

longstanding Greenwood Community partners, specialise in providing training and valuable life skills to children with special educational needs. The tour was so popular amongst the students, that it was split into two different days, to accommodate every student who wanted to attend. The plants donated will be used in the foundation's very own garden, situated on the college grounds, and maintained by the SEND students themselves.

PLANTS DONATED BY GREENWOOD AT CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE HOSPICE



CARRIE CORT FROM SUSSEX GREEN LIVING WITH KEVIN MERRITT

#### Kingsham Primary School

In early November, we donated a mixture of grasses, shrubs, and perennials to Kingsham Primary School, located in Chichester. The school, which is new to the Greenwood Community scheme, accommodates over 300 pupils in the local area, and provides a wealth of learning opportunities through local initiatives on its doorstep. The school has many green spaces for the pupils to enjoy, providing environments for outdoor learning on campus, including extensive playgrounds, an orchard, an allotment, a wooded area, and a large field. The plants have been included in a bedding area just outside the school building, planted by the school's own gardening club. They will help boost biodiversity, and provide a space for the pupils to enjoy, bringing them closer with nature. The school said "this kind gesture has helped make our school grounds look even better and supported us with our ongoing green mission."

KINGSHAM PRIMARY PUPILS TRANSFORM THEIR SCHOOL GROUNDS WITH SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS DONATED BY GREENWOOD PLANTS

#### **Greening Arundel**

New to Greenwood Community, in November we donated 20 mixed plants to Greening Arundel. The group is an alliance of fifteen different organisations in the local area, who are committed to driving environmental change in Arundel. Through collective action and community engagement, the group have engaged in a variety of different planting projects across the town. Their work has helped increase the biodiversity of the local ecosystem, providing vital wildlife corridors through hedge and tree planting, as well as providing a great social benefit, through their planting projects in the town centre; these are enjoyed by local residents and tourists alike. Being situated so close to Greenwood's Fresh Acres headquarters, we are thrilled to be getting involved with such a worthwhile project, and look forward to making further donations in the future.

If you would like to nominate a worthy organisation to recieve a Greenwood Community donation. please email kevin@greenwoodplants.co.uk.

KATRINA MURRAY AND CLAUDE PARADIS FROM GREENING ARUNDEL WITH KEVIN MERRITT





#### December

#### Greenwood Community exceeds annual donation target

At the beginning of the year, we set a target of 24 Greenwood Community project donations, a total which we were delighted to reach in mid-November. Projects included special needs schools, hospices, and ecological groups. The plants donated have helped to enhance local green spaces, boosting biodiversity, and providing social benefits to communities across the region.

#### July Greenwood begins recycling plastic waste

2024 saw us expand our G Cycle packaging recycling initiative, with the introduction of a brand new waste plastic baling machine, allowing us to crush and bale our waste plastic, including pots and wraps, to be sent to a key recycling facility. This not only helps us to reduce our waste, but promotes a circular economy.

Vovember

#### Greenwood delivers first trees of 3 Million Trees project

After more than 18 months since the beginning of the 3 Million Trees project, Greenwood was thrilled to see the first deliveries of trees arrive to community backed projects across the UK. The UK Native species have been grown from seed, in peat-free growing media, on Greenwood's nurseries. The trees were planted on volunteer days, organised by National Highways, as well as The Tree Council, who joined the project earlier this year.



2024 saw Greenwood excel, and deliver excellence in a challenging economic period. Records were broken, and prestigious industry awards were earned. 2024 also saw us begin delivering our largest contract to date, in partnership with National Highways and the Tree Council. Native trees have now been planted in community-backed projects all across the country, enhancing biodiversity and providing social benefits for local communities. Not only this, but our Greenwood Community initiative saw us surpass our target of 24 donations to worthy causes, ranging from hospices, to eco-groups and local schools. Whilst 2024 was not without its difficulties, Greenwood managed to successfully navigate and overcome every obstacle, thanks to its hardworking G Team. Here is a brief re-cap of the key events of 2024 at Greenwood.

#### February

#### Greenwood awarded 'Plant Healthy' certification

Following an audit of our UK nursery sites, Greenwood were awarded 'Plant Healthy' certification by the Plant Healthy Alliance. The certification demonstrates our commitment to maintaining strict biosecurity procedures, and taking great care to ensure every plant is healthy and free from pests and diseases.

#### January

#### Greenwood wins AIPH International Grower of the Year

We were delighted to win three awards at the AIPH International Grower of the Year awards, held in Essen, Germany. Greenwood won in the 'Sustainability' and 'Finished Plants and Trees' categories, as well as winning the 'Golden Rose' award as the overall winners on the night.

## June

#### Greenwood acquires Pigeon House Farm nursery site

We were thrilled to secure a new 160 acre nursery site this year, in Walberton, West Sussex. Located strategically close to our Fresh Acres HQ, the site will help to centralise Greenwood's southern growing operation, providing space to grow bare root whips, as well as a new water reservoir, to harvest rainwater for irrigation. August Greenwood wins Essex County Council tree contract

Greenwood was delighted to secure a tree supply contract with Essex County Council. The project is part of Essex's ambitious strategy to enhance its level of tree canopy cover across the region. Covering 4637 square kilometres and home to more than 1.5 million people, it is one of the largest in the UK.

#### November

#### Greenwood secures tree supply contract to Ipswich Borough Council

Greenwood secured another local government contract to supply trees, this time with Ipswich Borough Council. It's the third direct supply contract to a public sector organisation, after the National Highways and Essex County Council projects. Winning contracts like these are a testament to the G Team's commitment to excellence.

## greenwood

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