



Identify 100 Species - Common Trees

10 species you are likely to find in Leicestershire and Rutland

How easy is it to identify?

Easy



Care needed



Target species

Sycamore – *Acer pseudoplatanus* ●

ID: 'Maple' leaves in pairs and with toothed but not spiky edges. Paired winged seeds that droop.

Similar species: [Norway Maple](#) (spiky leaves)

Where to look: Coloniser of woodlands. Parks.

About: Though an introduced species, it is now one of our commonest trees. It grows to 35m and can live 400 years. It supports a huge biomass of aphids – food for many animals.

Recording: Photo desirable.



English Oak – *Quercus robur* ●

ID: Grows to huge size. Leaves taper to base and are stalkless, acorns on stalks.

Similar species: [Sessile Oak](#) (leaves on stalks and acorns stalkless), [Turkey Oak](#) (deeper leaf lobes + tassled acorn cups)

Where to look: Woods, hedges.

About: Supports more diversity of species than any other tree. It can live for 900+ years and reach 45m.

Recording: Photo desirable of leaves and/or acorns.



Horse Chestnut – *Aesculus hippocastanum* ●

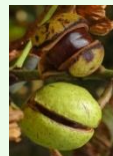
ID: 5 fingered leaves. Large white flowers. 'Conker' seeds in spiky cases. Brown blotches on leaves are caused by the Horse Chestnut Leafminer moth.

Similar species: [Red Horse Chestnut](#) (red flowers)

Where to look: Parks. Widely planted.

About: Introduced from Turkey in the late 16c.

Recording: Photo not required.



Other common Leicestershire xx to check out:

[Wild Cherry](#), [Yew](#), [Crab Apple](#), [Rowan](#), [Elm](#), [Beech](#), [Sweet Chestnut](#), [Aspen](#),

Common Lime – *Tilia x europaea* ●

ID: Heart-shaped leaves. Pendent white-yellow flowers with strap-shaped bract. Small hanging 'ball' seeds. Usually white hairs under the leaf.

Similar species: [Small-leaved Lime](#) (erect/horizontal flowers).

Where to look: Streets, parks. Widely planted.

About: A hybrid between the native Small-leaved and Large-leaved Limes.

Recording: Photo required of leaf underside (not from suckers) + flowers. Also note leaf size in the comments box.



To find out more about the [100 Species Challenge](#), how to submit records of your sightings and lots more about the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland, visit www.naturespot.org.uk.

Ash – *Fraxinus excelsior* ●

ID: Grows very large. 3-6 leaflets in opposite pairs. Dangling seeds (keys). Black buds in winter.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Woods, hedges, parks.

About: Young trees are smooth-barked, becoming fissured and darker with age. Threatened by Ash-Die-Back.

Recording: Photo desirable.



Alder – *Alnus glutinosa* ●

ID: Rounded leaves that taper into the stalk. Catkins. Small cones that turn brown with age.

Similar species: Italian Alder (lobed leaf bases).

Where to look: Naturally by water but widely planted.

About: The cones persist through the winter and provide an important seed source for birds such as Siskins.

Recording: Photo desirable.



London Plane – *Platanus x hispanica* ●

ID: 'Maple' shaped, alternate leaves, flaky bark. Round, spiky fruits.

Similar species: Norway Maple (winged fruits)

Where to look: Streets, parks – widely planted.

About: Has been a popular choice for urban street planting as it is tolerant of pollution. The flaky bark stops the pores from getting clogged with smut.

Recording: Photo desirable.



Silver Birch – *Betula pendula* ●

ID: Silvery bark, drooping twigs, triangular leaves, catkins.

Similar species: Downy Birch (minute hairs on leaf stalks)

Where to look: Naturally a coloniser but widely planted.

About: An important tree for wildlife with over 300 species relying on it. Look out for Birch Polypore and Hoof Fungus on older trees.

Recording: Photo desirable.



Norway Maple – *Acer platanoides* ●

ID: 5-lobed opposite leaves with spiky teeth. Paired winged seeds.

Similar species: London Plane (round seeds, alternate leaves).

Where to look: Streets, parks. Widely planted.

About: Introduced to the UK in the 17c. Grows to 35m. Leaves often turn red in Autumn. Seeds provide useful food for wildlife.

Recording: Photo required (leaves/fruit).



Hybrid Crack Willow – *Salix x fragilis* ●

ID: Large tree, often split into multiple trunks. Long, serrated leaves.

Similar species: White Willow (silky white under leaf).

Where to look: By water.

About: An important tree for wildlife. Split trunks and roots can provide cover for Otters. Used by many insects.

Recording: Photo desirable.

