

Assembly Resource

Read through the information about planting new trees below. Are you surprised to hear that planting trees anywhere isn't always a good idea?

Why are trees so important?



Rob, aged 36

- Trees give us oxygen and store carbon.
- They stabilise the soil and give life to the world's wildlife.
- They provide us with the materials for tools and shelter.
- The canopies of trees can act as a physical filter, trapping dust and absorbing pollutants from the air.
- They provide shade and can help reduce noise.
- Research has shown that within minutes of being surrounded by trees and green space, people become calmer and feel more relaxed.



Stuart, aged 27

Can trees be planted anywhere?

Large-scale tree planting schemes can actually be harmful to the environment if they are not carried out properly, say the experts at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew.

Dr Kate Hardwick, the scheme's Conservation Partnership Coordinator said: "When people plant the wrong trees in the wrong place, it can cause considerably more damage than benefits, failing to help people or nature."

What are the best trees to plant?



Emily, aged 5

Hazel, Crab Apple and Goat Willow are good trees to plant for smaller spaces and according to the Tree Council, people should 'copy nature by planting trees already successful nearby'.

Where can I learn more about trees and how I can help?



Maxine, aged 16

There are many useful sources of information, e.g. The Forestry Commission, The Woodland Trust and The Royal Horticultural Society.