
Overview

This standard is about identifying tree species, in either a commercial or amenity context.

Tree species identification is a fundamental aspect for anyone working in the trees and timber industry.

Identify tree species

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. obtain and use various tools and/or sources of information to accurately identify and name trees
2. use tree characteristics to aid identification
3. identify tree species in all seasons
4. identify common trees grown in the UK
5. identify plant species associated with growing trees
6. maintain accurate tree identification records according to organisation and relevant legal requirements
7. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to use identification tools and methods to aid identification
2. how to use identification keys
3. the basic principles of botanical classification and nomenclature
4. how plant characteristics can aid identification
5. how to identify trees in different seasons
6. the different plant and tree life cycles (age classes)
7. the preferred growing conditions of different tree species
8. the landscape use of different tree species in a commercial or amenity context
9. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

Scope/range

Characteristics include:

- leaves – size and shape
- buds
- bark and stems
- growth habit
- flowers, seeds and fruit

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