

Identify tree species and their properties

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**Overview**

This standard is about identifying tree species and their properties in either a commercial or amenity context. This includes the identification of trees and timber.

Tree species identification is a fundamental aspect for anyone working in the trees and timber industry, and an understanding of tree properties is essential when working with trees.

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### Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. obtain and use various tools and sources of information to accurately identify tree species and their properties
2. use tree characteristics to aid identification
3. identify tree species in all seasons
4. recognise how tree properties influence working methods
5. recognise how timber properties influence their utilisation
6. identify common trees grown in the UK
7. identify tree genera from timber samples
8. maintain accurate tree identification records according to organisation and relevant legal requirements
9. 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. the basic principles of botanical classification and nomenclature
2. how to use identification keys
3. how plant characteristics can aid identification
4. different plant and tree life cycles (age classes)
5. the preferred growing conditions of different tree species
6. how the effects of tree properties can influence utilisation
7. how the timber of different tree species is used
8. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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**Scope/range**

Characteristics include:

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

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<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating Organisation</b>	Lantra
<b>Original URN</b>	LANTw1
<b>Relevant Occupations</b>	Arboriculture and forestry; Coppicing; Chainsaw and forest machine operators; Gardener; Greenkeeper; Groundsman; Park Ranger; Landscaper; Nursery Worker
<b>Suite</b>	Treework; Horticulture
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