

# Grab a tree for free 2017

*in the National Forest and beyond*

## Could you help brighten up your garden, street and district by planting a free tree this year?

North West Leicestershire District Council is once again working in partnership with the National Forest Company and HK Wentworth to offer the Free Tree Scheme in an effort to make our district even greener.

Residents of North West Leicestershire can choose two trees from four varieties and can also apply to the "Hedge Fund" to order up to 30 metres of hedging.

### **Holly** (*ilex aquifolium*)

The common holly grows as a shrub or tree and has bright red berries and shiny leaves. The leaves are spiny and have a waxy texture. Holly is evergreen and will grow almost anywhere, including in difficult conditions such as waterlogged or chalky ground. In autumn, leaves turn a rich red colour.



### **Cherry Plum** (*prunus cerasifera*)

Masses of pure white flowers smother the branches in early March before the leaves appear. This is followed in autumn by tasty red or yellow, spherical cherry plums that grown on mature plants. The cherry plum is a popular ornamental tree for garden and landscaping use.



### **Hazel** (*corylus avellana*)

One of the smallest native tree species, hazel grows more like a shrub than a tree, only reaching approximately 20 feet in height when mature. Its leaves are comparatively large and round with a distinctive point. The leaves are slightly hairy to the touch and have a wrinkled appearance when fully out.



### **Whitebeam** (*sorbus aria*)

Is a medium-sized deciduous tree, rather upright when young, with dark green leaves, white-felted beneath, and clusters of white flowers in spring, followed by red berries in early autumn.



## The Hedge Fund this year is Hawthorn and Hazel mix with a Whitebeam at 10 metre intervals

### **Hawthorn** (*Crataegus monogyna*)

A fast growing, deciduous hedging plant. It heralds the arrival of spring, has an abundant and spectacular display of white scented blossom and it develops glossy red haws in autumn. It grows to 15 metres but it can be trimmed after flowering or in the autumn to keep it smaller.



You can order online at [www.nwleics.gov.uk/freetreescheme2017](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/freetreescheme2017). The deadline for applications is 27 October. Trees will be available for collection on Sunday 19 November 2017.