

# TREESOURCES

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Area of new woodland to absorb 1 UK residents lifetime CO2 emissions: 0.7Ha. Area of woodland required to sustainably heat 3 bed house: 0.4Ha/yr. (Yield class 10)  
Water pumped by a mature tree in 1 day: 500litres. Value added to property set amongst mature trees: 25%. Area of Amazon Rainforest lost each month: 125,000Ha. (1.5  
Mull's). Number of insect species associated with Oak: 284, Willow: 266, Spruce: 37; Lichen associations: O: 324, W: 160, S: 23. Typical conifer tree values:  
Standing in forest: £1. Felled at roadside: £17. Seasoned timber £500. Value of environmental services performed by a broadleaf tree in a 100 year life span: £180,000.

In these changing times, one thing that people generally agree on, is that trees are a good thing. I believe that the world has never needed trees more. To provide essential services and resources; and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

We value them for many reasons, some are harder to measure than others. This newsletter aims to share ideas on how to get more value from your trees. Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments, I am always happy to talk about trees. **AD**

## 21 REASONS TO PLANT TREES

This started as a list of 7 reasons then quickly became 13 and now 21! Perhaps you can think of more that I have missed out?

**Because it makes you feel good**, planting trees is an act of optimism, and a gift to the future.

**It keeps you fit** and is more satisfying than sweating it out in a gym.

**Windbreak**, a strip of trees can tame a gale into a gentle breeze for a distance of up to 10 times its height. Reducing domestic heating bills by up to 30%.

**Shelter**, tree canopies insulate, raising temperatures by up to 4°C in cool conditions and lowering them by up to 15°C on hot days.

**Sound barriers**, busy roads and noisy neighbours can be hushed without an ASBO.

**Visual enhancement**, ugly neighbours can be hidden, buildings softened, and the view from your property improved.

**Property values** increase by up to 25% when set amongst mature trees,

**Oxygen**, Just one mature tree can produce enough oxygen for a family of four.

**Air quality**, scrubbing pollution and dust from the air.

**Water quality**, streams, rivers and lakes have more life in them when they are partially surrounded by native trees.

**Habitat** for wildlife, trees provide food, shelter and materials for most land based and many freshwater species, or their prey.

**Firewood**, 2 acres of ash coppice could heat an average family home for life.

**Timber**, to house, furnish and equip your life, or as a growing asset.

**Carbon sink**, 0.7 Hectares of new woodland could absorb the average UK residents lifetime carbon emissions.

**Soil erosion**, when rivers run brown you are watching the soil fertility and your wealth wash down the drain. Trees decelerate rainfall and runoff reducing its erosive energy, and roots protect river banks.

**Food**, fruits, nuts and berries for human consumption or feeding to livestock.

**Farming**, Trees provide shelter for livestock, effectively reducing weight losses during cold winter months. They can provide mineral rich fodder from foliage and bark, replacing expensive concentrates, and an early bite in spring on sheltered pasture around them.

**Soil fertility**, leaf litter is a high nutrient mulch.

**Game cover**, young plantations and natural regeneration areas make excellent bird cover, deer are healthier if they have access to well established woodlands. Land with good tree cover is worth up to 40% more for its sporting potential.

**Medicine**, Every common ailment has a plant based remedy growing freely near you if you know where to look, and how to use it.

**Healing**, recovery of hospital patients is quicker when trees are in view.

**Beauty and inspiration**, trees are powerful symbols of renewal and continuity through changing times. Autumn and spring colours can be reason enough to feel that all is well.

## SRDP: TOO MUCH HASSLE FOR TOO LITTLE MONEY?

I have spoken with a number of people who have decided to withdraw from the SRDP due to the onerous application process for relatively small rewards. By coming together to make a collaborative bid it may be possible to achieve cost neutral operations and get someone else to do the paperwork for you.

### CO-OPERATION IS BETTER THAN COMPETITION.

We tend to think of nature as lots of individuals competing to secure as much of the available resources for themselves as possible. Or is that human behaviour? In fact in nature there is a great deal of co-operation between individuals and between species. Not so much the greedy survival of the fittest, as the synergistic survival of the friendliest. As a race we have evolved social groups based on families, tribes and communities recognising that we stand stronger when we stand together.

When dealing with land management on a large scale there are many benefits from co-operating with your neighbours to achieve common aims. Specific objectives such as improving water quality and habitat enhancement can only be properly achieved on a catchment or landscape scale. Controlling invasive plant species such as rhododendron is a relentless task unless all adjacent seed sources can be eradicated.

This is the newsletter of the **Argyll Islands Native Woodland Partnership**.  
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### COLLABORATIVE BIDS:

#### SAVING YOU TIME AND MONEY.

Economic advantages can be gained through spreading capital costs, and achieving discounts on bulk buying materials or labour.

The grant schemes are designed to favour collaborative bids. Large scale schemes that deliver bio-diversity or public benefits are also eligible for supplementary funding from private charitable trusts.

I would like to assist groups of farmers, landowners and managers who would be interested in exploring a collaborative bid for tree or woodland related activities. This would be submitted to the Scottish Rural Development Program and topped up with funds from private trusts. The aim is to attract sufficient supplementary funds, and economies of scale from contractors, that the scheme would be cost neutral and effort neutral to the individuals involved. All that you would have to do is agree to join in, and decide what you want to achieve. The administration, organisation and contract management would be carried out by an individual whose salary would be drawn from the supplementary funding. There may even be some scope for generating an income from the annual maintenance payments.

I cannot promise that this approach will work, but if you are interested in giving it a try please get in touch. If there is sufficient interest we can discuss how to take it forward from here.

### NO FENCE TREE PLANTING

Recently planted trees in their tubes make tasty little lollipops for deer, sheep and goats. Conventional wisdom states that the only way to get trees established is to put up fences and exclude all livestock and wild herbivores from the area until they are sufficiently tall that the growing points are out of reach. This takes 7 to 15 years on the westcoast of Scotland and the grant schemes preclude any other activity within those areas until the contractual obligations are met.

However, look along the crags and gullies of this rugged landscape and you will see tenacious trees flaunting that convention.....

**Steve Watson** observed this and pioneered a technique known as "Sabre Planting", he says, "A closer look at them can give clues as to how they survived there. Shoots repeatedly grow and are then grazed, but stem length increases inch by inch, year after year, creeping upwards and outwards. Once a leaning stem begins to form the buds on the down-side are protected and the tree grows over and away from the slope. Depending on the grazing pressure, soil fertility, gradient of slope and species, it may take a tree many years

to succeed in putting its leading shoots out of reach of grazing animals. When this stage is reached the tree then continues to grow in the usual manner, that is, straight upwards. Forming a 'J' or sabre shaped trunk.

Once observed and understood, the strategy of these sabre trees can be copied. By using trees grown to a minimum height of 4 feet and by planting at right angles to the slope, or leaning out over crags, leading shoots are placed out of reach of grazing sheep and deer. From above, the sheep cannot reach out over the slope to bite the leaders, and from below the leaders are too high to be reached. Fencing is therefore not necessary.

Upland slopes are often very stony and are unsuitable for planting bare-rooted trees, especially trees of 4 feet and more that have developed extensive root systems. Pot-grown trees provide a solution. Holes are dug and the soil from the hole is carefully heaped onto a polythene sheet, removing the larger stones. The root ball is inserted a little deeper than its pot height, to encourage radial rooting, and the soil replaced. Lower side shoots are pruned away to a height of 3-4 feet. If left these would be browsed, pulling the tree over.

Sabre planting is enhanced by bracken, deadly to seedling trees trapped in its shade, but an aid and ally to taller trees. Providing protection for shoots and shade and nutrients for their roots."

**"To increase the amount of land available for tree planting and regeneration we need to find ways in which trees, animals and people can co-exist."** Steve Watson

The thousands of trees in Snowdonia that Steve has established speak for themselves. It would be interesting to try it in the presence of red deer, as a way of enriching the seed sources available for natural regeneration. I am trying to source suitable planting stock and would like to hear from anyone who wants to get involved in some trials.

### LINKS & INFORMATION

Knowledge is not only power, it is also comes with the responsibility to take action.

Plants for a future have a comprehensive online database of over 7000 useful plants and trees.

<http://www.pfaf.org/index.php>

High quality, local provenance planting stock.

<http://www.taynuiltrees.co.uk/index.html>

Ever thought about farming with trees?

<http://www.agroforestry.co.uk/>

Practical how to guides, free online.

<http://handbooks.btcv.org.uk/handbooks/index>

