

# Feature THE GOOD LIFE

## A new tree for your garden

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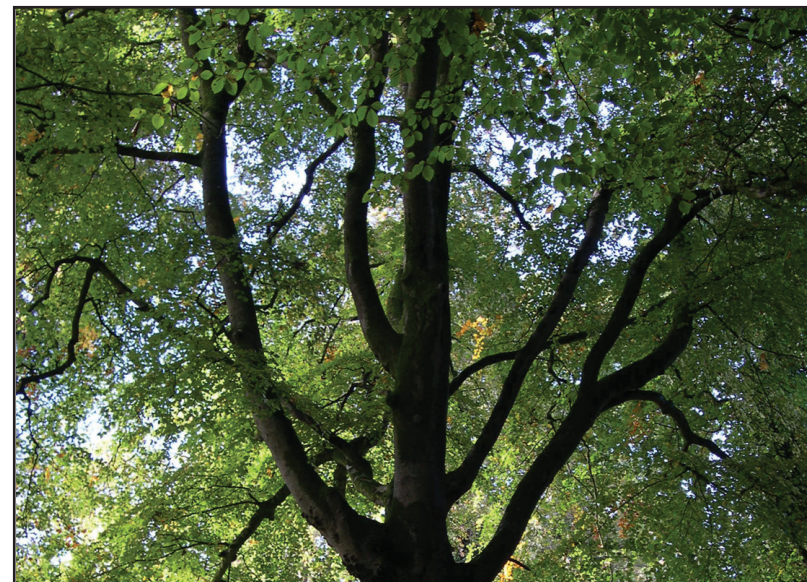
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**By Grant Jenkins**  
**The Tree Company, West Cork**

All over the country tree buds are bursting into life with fresh new leaves and a profusions of flowers of different shapes and sizes – spring is here and summer is just around the corner. This is a wonderful season to spend time looking at the trees in your garden and planning for next season's tree planting.

There is a vast array of wonderful trees you can choose to suit your garden and your personality. We use trees in the garden for many reasons; they provide height and perspective, screening, privacy, and shade on hot days. They can be used as wind breaks and shelter from cold or strong winds. They can also consolidate a boundary and frame a view. There are many features of interest a new tree can bring to your garden; they can have small subtle flowers or large flamboyant displays, wonderful varieties of leaf shape and colour, spectacular fiery autumnal displays, interesting textured bark and foliage as well as colourful or edible fruit.

You can choose evergreen trees which are green all year round and provide shel-

ter and privacy or a deciduous tree that loses its leaves in the autumn or why not use both types planted together. You may want to plant an individual specimen tree or a mixed group of trees.

A new tree can also provide a home and food to the wildlife that live in or visit your garden, and generally native species have more wildlife associated to them than the exotic trees.

Choosing the right tree for the right location is very important as time and money can be wasted when plants die. Years of watching a plant struggle in the wrong situation can be even more frustrating.

Trees come in all shapes and sizes from small delicate plants to big magnificent forest trees. There are several things to carefully consider before choosing a tree for your garden.

Consider the mature size and shape of the tree, select a plant suitable for space you have. Getting this right will reduce maintenance costs and unnecessary pruning.

Will the tree of your choice be suited to the soil type in your garden and is there enough topsoil to sustain the tree? Is the location suitable and is there sufficient

sunlight, is the ground free draining or is it prone to water logging as this can affect species choice?

Root damage and soil compaction can often be a cause of ill health in trees, so ask the question if I plant my tree in this location will the roots or ground be disturbed in the future?

Certain tree species will tolerate more exposure than others. Some trees get scorched and can even lose their foliage because of strong winds especially if you are near the coast where the winds can be salt laden. You can plant trees to break up and absorb the wind and you can then plant the more delicate trees in their shelter.

Choosing a new tree or trees for the garden is an exciting prospect, as one of the most important plants in the garden so careful planning and consideration is advisable before you make this investment. Trees are pleasurable to have around and if they are treated correctly they are around for a very long time! We not only plant trees for our benefit but for the benefit of future generations to come.

*The Tree Company Phone: 028 37630*

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