

Winter nuts and berries



www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Yew (c) Les Binns / Acorn, Ivy, Horse chestnut, Beech nuts and Rowan (c) northeastwildlife.co.uk / Holly, Rose hips, Crab apples and Hawthorn (c) Philip Precey

Download at <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/nuts.jpg>

THINGS TO DO IN OCTOBER

- Look out for acorns and horse chestnuts
- Learn what fungi are
- Try growing an acorn
- Find out why leaves fall in autumn
- Make a twig tower

RESOURCES

1. What are fungi?

<https://growwilduk.com/sites/default/files/media/What%20are%20fungi%20and%20why%20are%20they%20important.pdf>

2. Why are they important?

https://growwilduk.com/sites/default/files/media/Five%20ways%20fungi%20have%20shaped%20the%20world_2020.pdf

3. Fungi in the woods

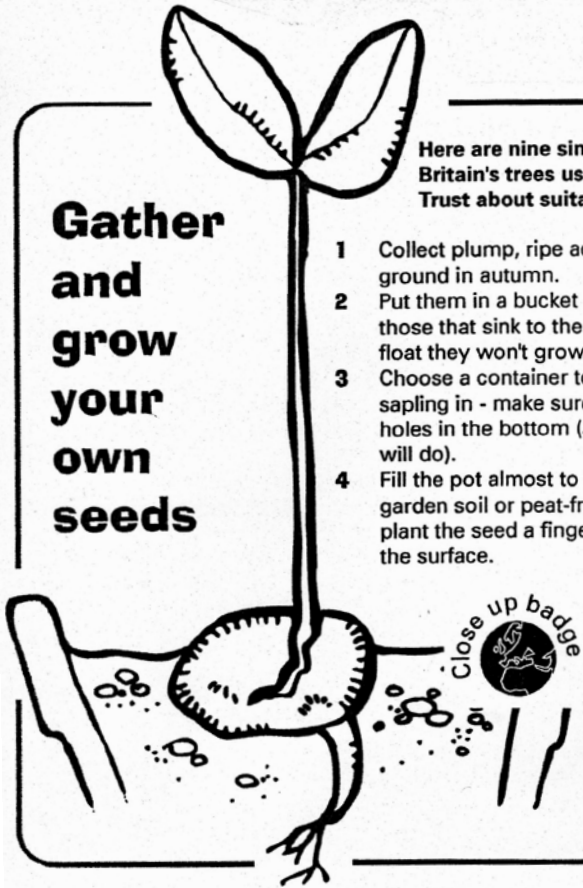
https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/application/files/7214/9752/5133/Fungi_in_the_woods.pdf

4. Identify fungi

https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/application/files/7515/8921/1532/Fungus_Detectives_final.pdf

4.

Gather and grow your own seeds



Here are nine simple steps to growing and looking after the next generation of Britain's trees using the oak as an example. Get advice from your local Wildlife Trust about suitable trees to grow, and places to plant them before you start.

- 1 Collect plump, ripe acorns from the ground in autumn.
- 2 Put them in a bucket of water. Only sow those that sink to the bottom - if they float they won't grow.
- 3 Choose a container to grow your sapling in - make sure it has drainage holes in the bottom (a big yoghurt pot will do).
- 4 Fill the pot almost to the top with garden soil or peat-free compost and plant the seed a finger's length below the surface.
- 5 Protect your seed from birds and mice by covering the pot with a fine wire mesh.
- 6 Place the pot in a shady, sheltered spot, out of doors.
- 7 Keep the soil moist (but not soggy) by standing it in a saucer or shallow dish, and watering if it gets dry.
- 8 Wait and be patient, it could be May next year before the seedling appears.
- 9 When the seedling is at least 20cm tall it is big enough to plant out in its permanent home. Ensure that you choose a suitable location (consider the size of the mature tree, the soil type etc), and make sure you have permission to plant the trees.

If you have the opportunity to plant several trees in one area you could take the group to visit their trees in their natural surroundings every so often - to measure them, take photos, and keep a diary of the wildlife that uses the area. Or you could arrange to adopt an area of young trees. This could be a project that lasts the group years and years and years, started by some children and continued by others!

5.

Twig towers



winter

Woodland Trust
naturedetectives

Environmental artists such as Andy Goldsworthy and Chris Drury use natural woodland materials to build and create 3D art and sculpture in the woods. Why not build your own twig tower sculpture under a tree...?



Gather some twigs, ready to create your twig tower. It could have a square base, a triangular base or be of your own design.



The best place to build the tower would be beneath a tree as you can try to build the tower up to the lower branches.

If there's a very low branch then you could build around it so that the branch becomes part of your sculpture.



You could also use a tree trunk as support.



learning through the seasons

www.naturedetectives.org.uk



WOODLAND TRUST