



Why orchards are important



Pollination

Fruit trees are very important for pollination. Their blossom provides an important source of nectar for pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies.



Food production

Orchards provide fruit for people to eat and a wide variety of animals including birds and squirrels. Insects also rely on the fruit as a source of food.



Orchards provide places for us to enjoy

Orchards can provide vital green areas in our cities and towns, where people can relax and connect with nature.



Educational benefits

Orchards provide an opportunity to learn in and about nature as well as a place to learn and train in traditional skills such as pruning and grafting.





A wide variety of habitats

The wood in fruit trees ages quickly, developing features such as dead wood, hollow trunks and rot holes. These provide habitat for different species like bats, woodpeckers, owls and insects.



Local produce

Producing fruit locally reduces the carbon footprint as it eliminates the need for fuel intensive transport.



Trees improve soil quality

When leaves, fruit and branches fall from trees they rot down and add nutrients to the soil, making it more fertile. The roots of trees help to prevent soil being washed away.



Trees release oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from the air

During photosynthesis trees take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen which we need to breathe. Carbon dioxide is then stored inside the trees as carbon.



Trees help to reduce flooding

Trees catch rainwater in their branches and leaves and soak it up through their roots. This action can help to prevent flooding.