

Ash Fruinseog



Conservation Volunteers
Northern Ireland

Fraxinus excelsior



DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree reaching 40m (120ft) under ideal conditions.

Trees normally bear both male and female flowers, but sometimes either the male or female parts of each flower may be absent. They are inconspicuous on their own, but their appearance in large clusters makes them stand out as they droop from the branches in April.

Although it tolerates a pH as low as 4.5, it grows best in well-drained but moist soils with a pH above 5.5. It does not grow well if the soil is thin, and dislikes dryness, especially in late spring. It is surprisingly tolerant of seasonal waterlogging.

PROPAGATION

It is best to collect ash keys when they have turned brown in October. Separate the individual seeds by hand and mix with a sand/compost mixture.

Place this mixture in a pot and label for identification. The seeds should be kept outside for the following two winters.

In the second spring after collection, sow the seeds onto seed-beds or trays, firm and water well. Germination is rapid. Given good light and soil conditions they will grow quickly.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Ash is the most common tree on this island.
- The natural life span of the ash is about two hundred years.
- This is the last native tree to come into leaf, usually in May. In the autumn, it is often the first tree to drop its leaves.
- Its wood is very strong and flexible. Tests have shown that ash is tougher than any other native hardwood. For this reason it is widely used for tool handles, furniture, sports equipment, and even parts of aircraft!

Tree Nursery
Dendron Lodge
Clandeboye Estate
BANGOR
BT19 1RN

Tel (028) 9185 3570
Fax (028) 9185 2225
Email CVNI-Nursery@cvni.org.uk

Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



ENVIRONMENT
AND HERITAGE
SERVICE