



# 'Treebilee' Fact Sheet

2022 heralds a year-long Platinum Jubilee celebration throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities come together to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's glorious and unprecedented 70-year reign.

A major part of the celebration is the creation of living and lasting memorials, courtesy of a project launched by HRH Prince Charles, affectionately called 'Treebilee', where people across the UK are being urged to plant trees to mark this special occasion.

Your town / parish has elected to take part in this project and has been gifted one of 200 English oak trees by East Suffolk Council for you to plant and nurture within your community.

**Tree planting is an important way to help tackle climate change, so this is a great opportunity to contribute to a practical environmental project, creating a lasting legacy. Symbolising royalty, patriotism and strength, the English oak tree has been and its historical contribution to landscapes, biodiversity, culture and economy is enormous.**

Oaks grow to an average of 20m in height and a mature oak can host up to 5,000 different species of invertebrate that will form the basis for a healthy food chain that benefits birds and mammals. As your tree grows and ages, it will develop cavities, crevices, dead wood and other features that plants and animals love.

Trees also naturally absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, a key greenhouse gas, through the process of photosynthesis, helping to create a significant carbon sink, to benefit everyone through a natural process.

When oaks reach 400 years old, they are considered ancient trees; some can live for over 1,000 years.

## Planting Information

Your tree is 175/200 cm tall and has been pot grown at James Coles & Sons (Nurseries) Ltd. It can be planted in the Spring months, in place for the June celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee.

When and where you plant your tree is up to you, all we ask is that you have relevant permissions from the landowner. The tree comes with a biodegradable protector to prevent stem damage from small mammals, which will disintegrate within 4 years.



A commemorative plaque completes the package, which can be displayed as required with the tree. You are also welcome to place additional plaques or information with the name of the Town or Parish Council.

We would also like to encourage you to recycle the pot it was grown in, by growing your own tree from seed or using as a planter.

When planting, it is wise to think about the tree full-grown; by doing this, the tree will have enough space around it to grow to its full potential. The roots will lie around 18 inches (45 cm) from the surface & span up to 3 feet (91 cm). In shallow soil, they can spread up to 2 feet (60 cm).

To ensure your sapling grows well, make sure it's getting enough moisture from watering. Aim to water it at least once a month or more in dry periods. You can also cover the ground around the base with mulch to keep the young roots hydrated and protect them from the sun.

Another method of providing protection for the tree is to plant fallen branches from other trees in a circle around the base, to ward off interference from mammals.

We suggest not using fertilizer on your tree unless the leaves are pale, or the tree isn't growing as expected. Fertilizer should not be used until its second year after planting. Keep in mind that oak trees grow very slowly at first. Feeding the tree to encourage fast growth weakens the wood. This can lead to splits in the trunk and broken branches.

When young, oak trees should be trimmed every 2 to 3 years to make sure they grow into a single main leader trunk and maintain a good branch structure. Any crossing branches or branches growing back towards the centre of the canopy should be removed. Older trees should be trimmed every 3 to 5 years, concentrating on removing dead branches and allowing sufficient light and air into the canopy of the tree to reduce the instance of fungal growth and rot.

Finally – feel free to share the images of your tree planting with our Communications Team at East Suffolk by emailing [communications@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communications@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

Further information:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

<https://www.forestryengland.uk>

