

Sorbus - Growing Guide

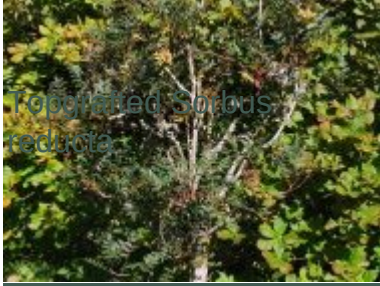
Introduction To Sorbus

The species and varieties of sorbus which we stock are all hardy trees growing to varying ultimate heights, with varying leaf forms, varying spectacular autumn colours and with different coloured berries. Those species and cultivars with pinnate leaves grow best in moist but well drained acidic soil in full sun or dappled shade. Sorbus aria varieties will, however, also grow in dry and/or chalky conditions as well as in acid soils.

Most sorbus trees need firm staking to get them established properly and can easily get blown over in the first few years after planting. Most sorbus are offered as grafted plants (often with *S. aucuparia* as the rootstock) and particular attention needs to be paid to removing any suckering new growth from the base of the tree below the graft.

Seed can readily be sown in containers in the cold frame when ripe in the autumn. Keeping mice away is essential and you may need to be quick to beat the thrushes and redwings to the fleshy ripe fruits. Unless your sorbus is grown well away from any other species or variety do not expect the seed to all come true.

Mention should be made separately of *S. reducta* which is a thicket forming, suckering shrub growing to around 3-4ft (sometimes it can be available top grafted onto another sorbus species and there is a good plant at Caerhays grown in this way). Its leaves are also pinnate with up to 15 glossy dark green leaflets which turn red and purple in autumn. The berries are crimson at first and then turn white. This is a plant best left to roam at the edge of a shrub border, but it definitely creates an autumn display when the clump is well established.



Sorbus with entire (rather than pinnate) leaves

S. aria 'Lutescens' (a form of the whitebeam) grows 30-50ft in height and has large ovate or obovate toothed green leaves which are white-hairy on their undersides. Brown speckled dark red berries.



S. aria 'Lutescens'



S. aria 'Lutescens'



S. aria 'Lutescens'



S. aria 'Lutescens'



S. foliata 'Emile'



S. foliata 'Emile'



S. foliata 'Emile'



Sorbus intermedia



Sorbus intermedia



Sorbus intermedia



S. thibetica 'John Mitchell'



Sorbus torminalis



Sorbus torminalis



Sorbus torminalis



Sorbus caloneura

S. aucuparia, mountain ash, is a common roadside and woodland tree in the north of the UK. It also graces our parks and gardens with mountainous panicles of red berries (sometimes orange-red) which usually stand out well on the trees by August, long before the dark green leaves, which have up to 12 pinnate leaflets, turn red or yellow in the autumn. These trees can grow to 40-50ft.



Sorbus aucuparia



Sorbus aucuparia



Sorbus 'Autumn Spire

Sorbus 'Autumn Spire



Sorbus cashmiriana



Sorbus cashmiriana



Sorbus 'Chinese Lace'



S. commixta 'Embly'



S. commixta 'Embly'



Sorbus hupehensis



Sorbus hupehensis



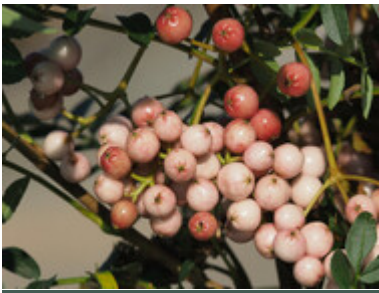
Sorbus hupehensis



Sorbus 'Joseph Rock'



Sorbus 'Joseph Rock'



Sorbus pseudovilmorinii



Sorbus pseudovilmorinii



Sorbus pseudovilmorinii



Sorbus sargentiana



Sorbus sargentiana



Sorbus sargentiana



Sorbus scalaris



Sorbus scalaris



Sorbus scalaris



Sorbus vilmorinii



Sorbus vilmorinii



Sorbus vilmorinii



Sorbus japonica

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