

Tree Trumps®

Forestry England
forestryengland.uk

How to play

Any number of people can play

- Shuffle the cards and deal them out evenly.
- Hold the cards so you can only see the top one.
- Pick a category and read the score out.
- The player with the highest score for that category wins.
- They place all the losing cards, as well as their own at the bottom of their pack.
- They then choose the next category.
- The winner is the player with all or most of the cards at the end of the game.

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Scores

How the scores are marked:

Lifespan

The maximum age in years if the tree is not cut down.

Height

The maximum height in metres if there are good growing conditions.

Wildlife Value

This is the number of associated species which live on a tree.

Timber Value

Timber is scored 1-100 based on information provided by our expert foresters.

People value

Climb-ability is scored from 1-100 based on common sense and guestimates.

Please take care when you climb trees!

English oak

Life span
800 years

Height
42m

No. of insects
284

Timber value
95

Climb-ability
100

Tree facts

- The oak tree with the biggest girth in Britain is a whopping 14m.
- Acorns don't grow until the tree is around 40 years old.



Quercus robur
Illustration: louisemorgan.co.uk



Holly

Life span
300 years

Height
27m

No. of insects
10

Timber value
65

Climb-ability
0

Tree facts

- There are more than 400 species of holly.
- The berries are an important source of food for birds in winter.



Ilex aquifolium
Illustration: louisemorgan.co.uk



Ash

Life span
300 years

Height
35m

No. of insects
68

Timber value
60

Climb-ability
49

Tree facts

- Seeds are known as helicopters or keys.
- Ash wood is used to make electric guitars. It's also great for firewood.



Fraxinus excelsior
Illustration: louisemorgan.co.uk



Hazel

Life span
70 years

Height
10m

No. of insects
106

Timber value
66

Climb-ability
6

Tree facts

- Both male and female flowers develop on the same tree.
- Hazel is very bendy - in spring you can tie a branch in a knot without breaking it.



Corylus avellana
Illustration: louisemorgan.co.uk



Beech

Life span
350 years

Height
30m

No. of insects
198

Timber value
90

Climb-ability
65

Tree facts

- Considered to be queen of British trees.
- Its leaves turn to beautiful golden colours in the autumn.



Fagus sylvatica
Illustration: louisemorgan.co.uk





Sweet chestnut

Life span
700 years

Height
35m

No. of insects
165

Timber value
81

Climb-ability
55

Tree facts

- The Romans ground chestnuts into flour.
- The flowers provide an important source of nectar and pollen for bees and insects.



Castanea sativa
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Crack willow

Life span
800 years

Height
15m

No. of insects
200

Timber value
40

Climb-ability
45

Tree facts

- Name comes from the noise it makes when the branches and twigs break off.
- The trees flexible stems are used to weave baskets.



Salix fragilis
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Black poplar

Life span
300 years

Height
35m

No. of insects
189

Timber value
65

Climb-ability
16

Tree facts

- Black poplar is the most endangered native tree in Britain. This is due to declining habitat and cross breeding.
- In the past, poplars were often used to mark boundaries.



Populus nigra
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Common alder

Life span
120 years

Height
20m

No. of insects
141

Timber value
42

Climb-ability
51

Tree facts

- The only broadleaf deciduous tree to develop cones.
- Loves the water, prefers to grow next to rivers and ponds.



Alnus glutinosa
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Hawthorn

Life span
300 years

Height
15m

No. of insects
209

Timber value
40

Climb-ability
2

Tree facts

- Also known as the 'May tree' after the month in which it blooms.
- Branches make ideal homes for small birds.



Crataegus monogyna
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Yew

Life span
600 years

Height
29m

No. of insects
6

Timber value
59

Climb-ability
3

Tree facts

- There are 10 yew trees in Britain thought to pre-date the 10th century.
- Medieval archers made their longbows out of yew.



Taxus baccata
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Scots pine

Life span
500 years

Height
36m

No. of insects
172

Timber value
80

Climb-ability
12

Tree facts

- Scots pine is the most common conifer tree in the world.
- It is the only native conifer to grow tall enough to produce useable timber.



Pinus sylvestris
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Silver birch

Life span
120 years

Height
30m

No. of insects
334

Timber value
70

Climb-ability
64

Tree facts

- Woodpeckers often nest in the trunk.
- Traditionally used to make besom brooms, much like the ones witches use to fly in story books.



Betula pendula
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk





Sycamore

Life span
400 years

Height
35m

No. of insects
150

Timber value
70

Climb-ability
54

Tree facts

- Very tolerant of sea spray so often planted near the coast.
- Wood used to make love spoons in Wales.



Acer pseudoplatanus
Illustration: lousiemorgan.co.uk



Rowan

Life span
120 years

Height
15m

No. of insects
158

Timber value
62

Climb-ability
30

Tree facts

- The branches were once put over doorways to stop witches from entering.
- The red berries produced in autumn are very attractive to migrating birds.



Sorbus aucuparia
Illustration: lousiemorgan.co.uk



Aspen

Life span
100 years

Height
25m

No. of insects
190

Timber value
39

Climb-ability
17

Tree facts

- One of the last trees to grow leaves in spring.
- The long stalks allow the leaves to tremble in a slight breeze, so the tree is sometimes known as the 'quivering aspen'.



Populus tremula
Illustration: lousiemorgan.co.uk



Elder

Life span
60 years

Height
15m

No. of insects
166

Timber value
79

Climb-ability
15

Tree facts

- If you plant elder near a house it is said to keep the devil away.
- The flowers are used to make cordial and the berries can be used to make wine.



Sambucus nigra
Illustration: lousiemorgan.co.uk



Small leaved lime

Life span
400 years

Height
38m

No. of insects
157

Timber value
41

Climb-ability
47

Tree facts

- Old lime trees provide dead wood for beetles, and nesting holes for birds.
- During the war, lime blossom was used to make a soothing tea.



Tilia cordata
Illustration: lousiemorgan.co.uk



Noble fir

Life span
150 years

Height
55m

No. of insects
15

Timber value
68

Climb-ability
1

Tree facts

- One of the most popular Christmas trees as it has strong branches and attractive greenery for making wreaths.
- Native to the Pacific coast of North America.



Abies procera
Illustration: lousiemorgan.co.uk



Douglas fir

Life span
1000 years

Height
55m

No. of insects
162

Timber value
75

Climb-ability
10

Tree facts

- It's bark is non-flammable, and offers protection against forest fires.
- The tallest tree in the UK is a Douglas fir.



Pseudotsuga menziesii
Illustration: lousiemorgan.co.uk



Norway spruce

Life span
200 years

Height
40m

No. of insects
160

Timber value
80

Climb-ability
10

Tree facts

- Norway spruce is one of the species traditionally used as a Christmas tree, thanks to Prince Albert who, in 1841, introduced decorating a tree with lights.



Picea abies
Illustration: lousiemorgan.co.uk





Field maple

Life span
120 years

Height
15m

No. of insects
151

Timber value
42

Climb-ability
32



Acer campestre
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Tree facts

- It produces a sweet sap that can be made into syrup.
- Its wood is used for flooring, furniture and wood turning.

Western hemlock

Life span
500 years

Height
45m

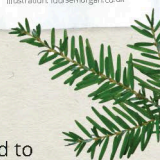
No. of insects
10

Timber value
67

Climb-ability
1



Tsuga heterophylla
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Tree facts

- The wood has been used to carve into spoons and combs.
- When planted on river banks, western hemlock can help reduce erosion.

Wild cherry

Life span
60 years

Height
30m

No. of insects
163

Timber value
60

Climb-ability
40



Prunus avium
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Tree facts

- Seeds are distributed by mammals and birds but they can also propagate themselves by root suckers.
- The tree sometimes produces a sticky gum-like substance from its bark.

Downy birch

Life span
100 years

Height
24m

No. of insects
334

Timber value
69

Climb-ability
61



Betula pubescens
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Tree facts

- The wood was used to make bobbins, spools and reels for the Lancashire cotton industry.
- Bark was used for tanning leather.

Horse chestnut

Life span
300 years

Height
40m

No. of insects
174

Timber value
70

Climb-ability
62



Aesculus hippocastanum
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Tree facts

- Leaf stalks leave a scar on the twigs in the shape of a horseshoe when they fall.
- Conkers used to be ground into powder to make a cough medicine for horses.

European larch

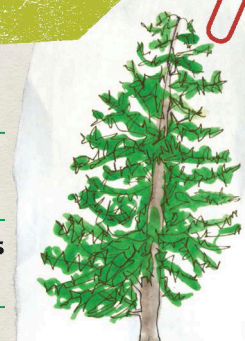
Life span
250 years

Height
38m

No. of insects
180

Timber value
86

Climb-ability
15



Larix decidua
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Tree facts

- The only coniferous tree in Britain to lose its needles in winter to protect it from frost.
- The wood is used for yacht building, fencing and garden furniture.

Sitka spruce

Life span
700 years

Height
100m

No. of insects
178

Timber value
85

Climb-ability
13



Picea sitchensis
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Tree facts

- A very fast grower which is why it is an important tree for forestry and the timber market.
- Named after a place in Alaska.

Juniper

Life span
250 years

Height
10m

No. of insects
32

Timber value
20

Climb-ability
12



Juniperus communis
Illustration: lousemorgan.co.uk



Tree facts

- One of three conifers native to Britain.
- Berries are used to flavour gin.
- Its fragrant wood is sometimes used in incense.