
»» Why trees are important.

Trees absorb air pollution

- Trees absorb carbon dioxide as part of photosynthesis and so reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming.
- They also remove harmful particulates (dust, diesel exhaust solids, etc.) which cause asthma and other respiratory problems.
- Lime trees and sycamores are especially good at this because of the hairs and Honey Dew on their leaves. (Aphids drink sap from the leaves and secrete Honey Dew).

Trees moderate temperatures

- In summer trees keep us cool.
- They provide shade from the sun's rays.
- They also actively cool the air as water evaporates from their leaves during transpiration.
- In winter trees keep us warm.
- Wind chill is reduced because trees obstruct and slow the air. Trees reduce noise pollution.
- When in leaf trees interrupt sound waves travelling through them, reducing noise pollution.
- The rustling of leaves in the wind also creates a natural background noise.

Trees make you feel better

- Studies have shown that people in hospital get better more quickly if they can see trees outside.
- We are all influenced by our environment. Trees can make you feel calmer whereas traffic generates anxiety.
- The longevity of trees help us to connect to the past. Trees live much longer than us. Some can live for 1000 years.
- The natural processes of leaf growth, flowering, fruiting and leaf fall connect us with the cycle of the year.