

## Uses of Timber

### Sweet Chestnut

Coppices well. A poor firewood.

Is a durable wood and can be used for:

- 20 years: Fencing material – cleft post and rail fence
- Tree stakes, fence posts, plant stakes, palings and gate hurdles
- Turnery wood – stools and chairs, garden dibbers, candle sticks
- Firewood – enclosed only (tends to spit)
- 2-3 years: Walking sticks

### Ash

Can coppice. Splits cleanly (a hazard when felling) and burns even when green.

A strong and resilient wood and can be used for:

- Turnery wood – stools and chairs, tool handles
- Garden rakes, gate hurdles and tent pegs
- Firewood – burns well even when freshly cut
- 7-12 years: Sythe snaiths, gate hurdles, been rods, flower stakes, wattle rods for housing, barrel hoops, walking sticks, besom handles, hay forks
- 12-15 years: Hop poles, furniture, turnery, fence rails and pails, wedges, firewood, charcoal, milk stools, wooden wheels, vehicle body frames, cricket stumps

### Birch and Sycamore

Both coppice well. Birch burns well.

Both with poor strength and not very durable.

Useful for:

- Turnery wood – if large enough, kitchenware, spatulas, rolling pins etc
- Firewood / charcoal and besom heads.

### Hazel

Coppices well. Can grow 1.5metres in its first year.

Burns well and makes fine charcoal.

Generally poor in Somerset and Dorset, but better in Hants. Not durable.

Used for:

- 6-12 years: Hedge stakes and heatherings / binders, Garden products – beanpoles, pea sticks, trellis, wigwams, Sheep hurdles, barrel hoops, thatching materials e.g. spars
- 12-15 years: Garden hurdles, rustic poles, hedging stakes, and small turnery.
- 15 years: Firewood and charcoal

# Bishops Wood Centre

Open College Network West Midlands accredited training for Forest School



## **Sallow**

Excellent coppice. Burns fast when dry.

Used for:

- 6-12 years: Withy's, been rods, thatching, gate hurdles, clothes pegs, barrel hoops, hedge stakes, tool handles.
- 12-25 years: Firewood and charcoal

## **Oak**

Can coppice and pollard.

Slow burning firewood, but the best charcoal for swordsmithing.

A source of tanbark.

- 7-12 years: Stakes and sticks
- 12-20 years: Gate hurdles, lathes, wedges, ladder rungs, fence rails, paling, bark for tanning, turnery, spelk baskets.
- 20-30 years: Furniture, shingles, firewood, charcoal
- 30 years: Cooperage, boats, carving, veneers, furniture, flooring, and structural timber

## **Beech**

Does not coppice well, but pollards.

Young beech burns green but seasoned produces a bright fire.

Used for:

- 70 years: Furniture, chair legs, turnery, butchers blocks, platters, spoons, mallet heads, simple hand tools, wedges, firewood and charcoal.

## **Willow**

Pollards well. Is grown in beds for basket making and weaving.

If dry burns well, but can spit.

Used for:

- 1-3 years: Osiers, basket making, biomass, garden sculptures, fences
- Other types -
- 3 years: Gate hurdles, stakes, thatching wood, cricket bats, hoops, and clothes pegs.

## **Holly**

Dense and white and is used in small pieces for carving, inlays, and woodcuts.

Prunes well and regenerated shoots make excellent horse whips.

Burns fantastically even when green.