



Tree Forms, Shapes & Sizes

Plant specifications are used for a reason - they work!

With plants now being sourced from across the UK, Europe and sometimes even farther afield, using simple plant specifications makes things easier all round. Used across the industry across all continents, specifications are recognised universally as industry standards. The best reason for using plant specifications is to enable customer, supplier and growers to speak the same language when ordering plants.

Trees form the backbone of any design and are an important visual element to a garden. With that in mind it is important to get the right form and shape at the start.

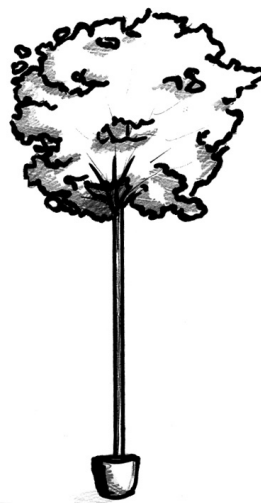
FORMS

Trees are usually supplied in one of the following forms: Standard, Feathered and Multi-Stem. These are natural forms and are the most typical.

Standard

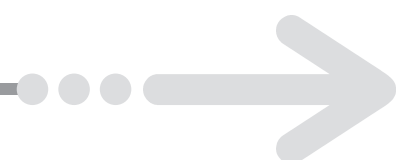
Always classified by girth size
(circumference of the stem at 1m above ground level)

- Trees with an upright stem, clear of lateral growths with a branched crown
- Can range from small trees to semi-mature specimens - see table opposite



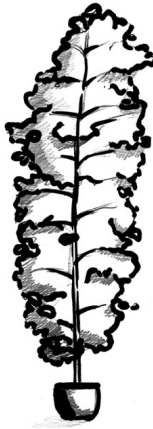
Standard

GIRTH	SPECIFICATION	APPROX HEIGHT	CLEAR STEM HEIGHT
4-6cm	Feathered tree	1.75-2m	-
6-8cm	Light Standard	2.5-3m	1.5/1.75m
8-10cm	Standard	2.5-3m	1.75/2m
10-12cm	Selected Standard	3-3.5m	min 2m
12-14cm	Heavy Standard	3.5-4m	min 2m
14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	4-6m	min 2m
16-18cm	Extra Heavy Standard	4.5-6m	min 2m
18-20cm	Semi-Mature	4.5-6.5m	min 2m
20-25cm	Semi-Mature	5-6.5m	min 2m
25-30cm	Semi-Mature	6-6.5m	min 2m
30-35cm	Semi-Mature	6-6.5m	min 2m
35-40cm	Semi-Mature	6.5-7m	-
45-50cm	Semi-Mature	7-7.5m	-

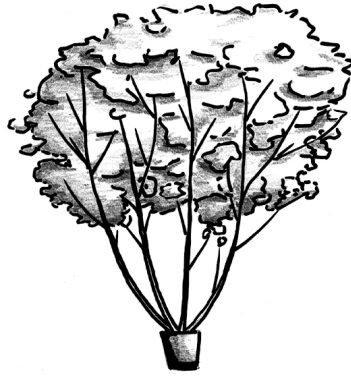




Tree Forms, Shapes & Sizes



Feathered



Multi-Stem

Feathered

Always classified by height (normally up to 2m)

- Trees with an upright central leading shoot and a stem with evenly spaced lateral growths down to near ground level

Multi-Stem

Always classified by height

Multi-Stems are available in two different forms:

- Trees with one or more main stems arising from the same root system - a true multi-stem
- Three trees with separate root systems planted together in one pot/root ball to create a multi-stem effect. Not commonly available and not true multi-stem

SHAPES

Trees may also be supplied in the following shapes: pleached, parasol, espalier and fan.

Pleached

- A frame creating a two-dimensional effect with the branches spreading sideways in one plane (i.e flat)

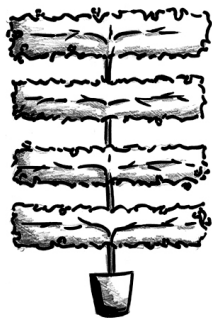
Parasol/Umbrella

- Popular in Europe. The main branches are trained over a horizontal frame creating a parasol effect

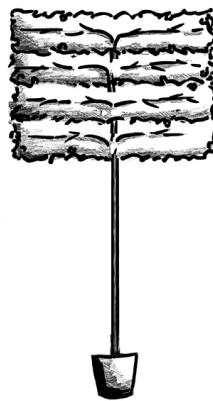
Espalier & Fan

Typical for fruit trees

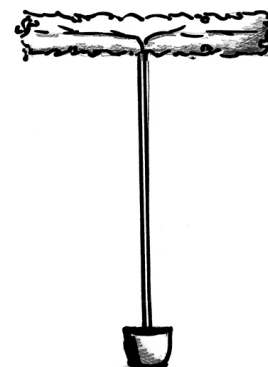
- Espalier is a tree with a central stem with a balanced (same number) of horizontal branches in one vertical plane on each side (i.e flat)
- Fan is a tree with a balanced fan-shaped system of branches in one vertical plane (i.e flat)



Espalier



Pleached



Parasol