

ROWAN OR MOUNTAIN ASH (*Sorbus acuparia*)

A small tree native to the north and west of Britain, naturalised on the sandy heaths of southern England and cultivated in gardens everywhere. Highly valued as an ornamental tree its only purpose in forestry is as a nurse (Edlin says also a fire-break on exposed sites!). The fruit makes an edible jelly^[1].

Rowan has a short growing season and tends to shut down, losing its leaves and berries before other species. It can be a prolific self seeder in restricted areas; but not on the scale of birch as the latter seeds are spread by the wind.



^[1]“British Woodland Trees”, H L Edlin, 1949, p59.