

## GROW BERRIES FOR MAMMALS

Fruit is an important part of the diets of many native mammals. One of the best ways we can support these mammals in our green spaces is to provide food for them by growing the food they like to eat.

Below you will find information about six of the best food plants you can grow for UK mammals: you can see what the fruit and flower of each plant looks like, as well as when to expect it to bear fruit, how big the mature plant will grow (to check it will fit in your space), how much sun it needs to grow, and a fun fact to wow your friends and family!

### DOGWOOD



#### When does it fruit?

August – September

#### Size:

Height: 2.5m Spread: 2.5m

#### Sun exposure



Full sun

#### Eaten by:

Wood mice, bank voles, and hazel dormouse

#### Fact:

The straight twigs of this shrub used to be used for butchers skewers – skewers were known as “dogs”, hence the name!

Common Name: **DOGWOOD**

Scientific Name: *Cornus sanguinea*

Type: **Shrub**

### BLACKBERRY



#### When does it fruit?

August – September

#### Size:

Height: 2.5m Spread: 2.5m

#### Sun exposure



Full sun

#### Eaten by:

Dormice, squirrels, badgers

#### Fact:

Strictly speaking, blackberries aren't actually berries! They are technically an 'aggregate fruit' made up of many 'drupelets'.

Common Name: **BRAMBLE**

Scientific Name: *Rubus fruticosus*

Type: **Shrub**

# LEARN AT CHESTERZOO

## WILD CHERRY



### When does it fruit?

June – August

### Size:

Height: 20m Spread: 8m

### Sun exposure



Full sun

### Eaten by:

Dormice, wood mice, badgers

### Fact:

Wild cherries have been eaten by humans for thousands of years, with cherry stones being found at Bronze Age settlements throughout the British Isles.

Common Name: CHERRY

Scientific Name: (*Prunus avium*)

Type: Tree

## ELDER



### When does it fruit?

August - September

### Size:

Height: 6m Spread: 6m

### Sun exposure



Full sun

### Eaten by:

Dormice, bank voles, badgers

### Fact:

As well as the berries, bank voles and dormice eat the flowers of the elder tree.

Common Name: ELDER or BLACK LACE

Scientific Name: *Sambucus nigra*

Type: Tree

## HAWTHORN



### When does it fruit?

September - November

### Size:

Height: 6m Spread: 8m

### Sun exposure



Full sun or dappled shade

### Eaten by:

Foxes, badgers

### Fact:

In medieval Britain it was said that Hawthorn flowers smelled of the Black Death. It was later discovered that a chemical in these flowers, trimethylamine, is one of the first to form in decaying flesh, hence the association with death.

Common Name: HAWTHORN

Scientific Name: *Crataegus monogyna*

Type: Shrub

# LEARN AT CHESTERZOO

## HAZEL



### When does it fruit?

September - November

### Size:

Height: 6m Spread: 5m

### Sun exposure



Full sun or partial shade

### Eaten by:

Dormice

### Fact:

As the wood of the hazel tree can be twisted and knotted, it has historically been a popular building material, being used in roof thatching and furniture making.

Common Name: **HAZEL** Scientific Name: *Corylus avellana*

Type: **Tree**

## MORE INFORMATION

There are loads more things you can do to promote and protect mammals in your garden, such as leaving some grass to grow longer, creating log piles, and making fence gaps.

