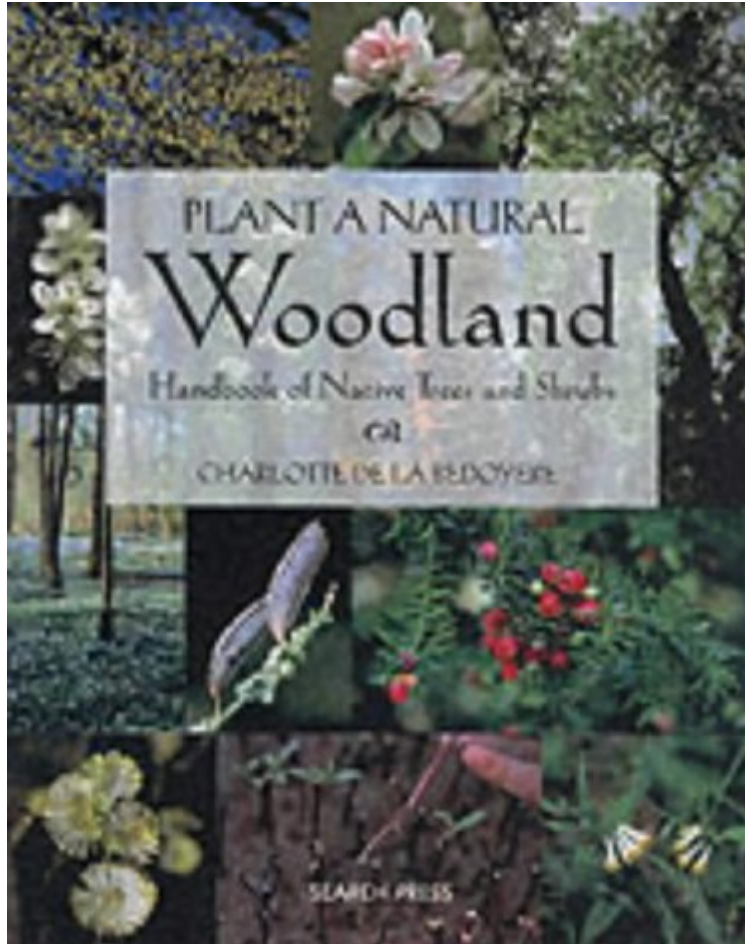


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## Plant a Natural Woodland: A Handbook of Native Trees and Shrubs

*Charlotte de la Bedoyere*

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**Charlotte de la Bedoyere : Plant a Natural Woodland: A Handbook of Native Trees and Shrubs** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Plant a Natural Woodland: A Handbook of Native Trees and Shrubs:

With some management, trees and shrubs are more likely to survive and grow quicker, as also are many of our native wild flowers, mosses, lichens, grasses, fungi, and with them the birds, butterflies, insects and reptiles that rely on woodlands and verges. Even a few square metres can support some trees and shrubs and with them an astonishing variety of wild flowers and wildlife. The first part of the book illustrates and discusses all the native trees and shrubs that once covered most of Britain. The second part gives guidance on planning both large and small woodlands, with a look at the importance of rides, glades and ponds. Advice is given on how to plant, maintain and manage your

woodland with minimal intervention and yet cope with weeds, pests, diseases and the effects of drought. Finally there is a section devoted to augmenting existing wild plants to the forest floor.

Despite growing trees in her garden and woodland for over forty years, it was not until the hurricane of 1987 that Charlotte de la Bedoyere discovered the wonders of a natural woodland. Faced with the loss of many trees and the need for replanting, she chose to plant only those trees and shrubs which were native to Great Britain. That is, were around 10,000 years ago when Britain first separated from the rest of Europe. Few, if any still exist today and the inclusion of foreign 'invaders', be they flora or fauna, have meant a shift in balance to our natural woodlands. This book, aimed at the private gardener and landowner, is an inspirational guide to native trees and their planting. A chapter specifically on community planting by Andrew Beer of the Woodland Trust outlines the planning and organization of such a project in clear and concise terms which should assist those in charge of such a valuable undertaking. An A-Z directory of trees, shrubs and undergrowth plants is accompanied by clear photographs and descriptions together with a rough guide to the tree's inhabitants of birds and butterflies. Bearing in mind that most trees will long outlive the planter, the importance of correct site and planting cannot be over-emphasised and Charlotte de la Bedoyere does not hesitate to do so throughout the book together with the fact that woodlands are an essential part of our biodiversity. Today's mismanagement is already having knock-on effects on our lives with global warming and the destruction of many wildlife habitats. Trees are being felled ten times faster than they are being replanted. It is down to today's generation to ensure these valuable resources are not terminally destroyed and reading and taking action on this book will go a long way to help and educate the younger generation. About the Author Charlotte de la Bedoyere was fascinated by the idea of natural gardening at a very early age. She has a large flourishing vegetable garden at her Sussex home, where she grows dozens of varieties of herbs, plus many topical varieties, and she also keeps ponies, ducks, geese, chickens, and sheep. Her forty acres of woodland were recently named as a site of nature-conservation interest, having been found to contain 250 different species of plants. When not gardening, she loves to travel the world studying exotic flora and fauna.