



Wayfaring Tree - *viburnum lantana*



The best time to spot the Wayfaring Tree is in summer when it is in flower or early autumn when it is covered in red fruits.

Although it is one of the few plants with the word 'tree' in its name, the Wayfaring Tree is really more of a shrub or bush. There are many in the field boundaries such as this one behind the bench in Vale Meadow (below 1/5/12).



The large leaves are round or heart shaped - dusty green above and whiter beneath. They are always borne in pairs. The flowers open at around the same time as the leaves in May/June and take the form of cluster (called a cyme) formed from small five lobed flowers. They have a sweet and distinctive smell.



The flattened oval fruits are red at first turning to black. They have a single seed and are attractive to birds, which distribute the seeds by eating the fruit and depositing the seeds elsewhere in their droppings.

Take a walk around the fields in summer and spot the Wayfaring Trees in the hedgerows.
Look closely at the flowers and note their pleasant distinctive smell.
Visit again in autumn to see the clusters of red or black fruits.

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