



## Rowan (Mountain Ash) - *sorbus aucuparia*



The best times to spot the Rowan are in spring when it is in flower or in autumn when it is resplendent with red berries.

Rowan is widespread throughout Selsdon Wood. The alternative name, Mountain Ash, is misleading as the tree is in no way related to the Ash despite the similar leaf shape. The Rowan is a small tree with a straight clean trunk and smooth grey-brown bark scarred with horizontal slashes. All the branches point upwards giving an overall shape reminiscent of a Christmas tree. The two specimens shown are in the Gorses area (top 6/9/09) and on the north side of Pool Grove close to Linden Glade (bottom 11/5/12).



The Rowan has a compound leaf divided into 11-15 leaflets with toothed edges. These are paler on the underside and may be hairy along the midrib and nerves when young.



The 5-petalled flowers are small and creamy white and appear in dense clusters in May and June (above 11/5/12). The bright red fruits are the same size as Holly berries but are biologically more similar to clusters of tiny apples. They are attractive to birds, which distribute the seeds by eating the fruit and depositing the seeds elsewhere in their droppings.



Take a walk in spring or autumn and look for Rowan trees.  
Count the leaflets making up each leaf.

Rowan is found widely dispersed throughout the wood.  
The map show the specimens mentioned above.



