


# Hello Trees Resource Sheet

## What to look for outdoors in early Spring

### Beech Tree Flowers



 You will have to be quick!



Beech tree flowers are pretty, yellow, furry pompoms - well worth looking for.



But, also, beech trees have a second, secret flower.



You might say it is unspectacular, but this second secret flower is the one that is going to catch pollen from the pompoms and develop into beech nuts.

Beech nuts are called 'beech mast' and are all-important food for little field mice and dormice, insects - and pigs!



Does your beech tree have lots of flowers? Will this be a 'good mast year'?



I suppose we had better find a beech tree first.



Here is a beech tree I found this week. Within days it went from being a skeleton of branching to being covered in leaves and flowers.

Hurry out and look for a beech tree of your own.



Take a magnifying glass with you. The fringe of hair around the leaves and the detail in the flowers are not to be missed.



Here are the clues:

**Branching:** bell-shaped



**Bark:** grey, with the texture of toast.

**Buds:** pointed and sticking out from the twig; now burst and shedding its brown husk.

**Leaf:** oval with a point; hairy!! edges; fresh green; crinkled at first then shiny-smooth.



**Flowers:** yellow, pollen-carrying pompom-balls, dangling down; and separate, very small, hairy, tufty, pale pink, green and white brushes.

**Fruit:** not developed yet, but look on the ground underneath the tree for last year's hook-encrusted cases. The nuts inside will, almost certainly, have been eaten.

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Here are some of the photographs that I took of 'my' beech tree:



*Looking up into the branches. Judging by the size of its trunk, the tree is more than 200 years old.*



*Fresh green leaf fringed with hair. Note, also, the long thin bud husk.*



*Grey bark with the texture of toast.*



*Bud scales peel back as the shoot emerges. We can see the squashed leaves unfurling.*



*Discarded bud scales fall away. Seeing them on the ground, we know we shall see a beautiful beech tree.*



*Dangling pollen-bearing pom-pom flowers and, above, a tufted flower that will develop into fruit.*



Keep an eye on those tufty flowers.



Watch them turn into beech nuts.



We would love to see *your* photos of *your* beech tree.

Do share them with us on the [Hello Trees gallery](#) or [Hello Trees Facebook](#).