

How to use Gaugemaster Seafoam Trees

Gaugemaster Seafoam can be 'planted' straight out of the box if you wish, but a little extra work with scatter material and paint, is well worth the effort.

If you want to thicken the trunks of your trees, do this first. Where necessary straighten trees with stiff wire fastened to the trunk. This will also help when you come to plant the tree. Beef-up the trunk with 'budget-price' white masonry paint, this is thick, with a sandy texture and won't drip. Apply the paint generously with a brush or a bamboo barbecue skewer and leave to dry.

For rounded trees like Oaks try the traditional way of building up a trunk and branches with wire. Cut off a dozen or so 200mm (8") lengths of wire. Twist the lower part of the bundle to form the trunk. Twist together the lower ends of three or four groups of wire to form the thickest main branches and bend these and the single strands at their ends into a random zig zag pattern. Form the branches into the rough shape you want for your tree. Paint the whole thing with masonry paint and leave to dry.

Stand your bare 'tree' up. With a pair tweezers pull individual branches off a Seafoam Tree - dunk pairs of these branches in thinned masonry paint (approx. 7 parts paint to 3 of water) and lay them on the lowest branches of your wire tree. Continue around and up the tree, gradually building up the branches. Prick any clogged paint with a bamboo bb skewer - the excess paint will drip away. Don't pile on too many branches at once - let them dry, the paint will stick them together and to the wire branches. The paint stays flexible so you can adjust the shape of the tree. Use the silhouettes as a guide to the shape of various trees in their Summer and Winter forms.

Tree trunks vary in colour, greyish greens and greenish browns are the most common, the exception is Silver Birch - leave these white but paint on the typical markings in black.

A quick word on painting. For detailed work use liquid acrylic paint. For subtle effects use a nearly dry brush. You will see that the colour emphasises the texture of the surface you're painting on but does not completely

obscure the colour below. Use a decent brush - it needs to be flat and springy.

Use aerosol paints for colouring the branches and twiggy bits, and for changing the brightness of foliage. Use a dark colour for twigs and branches. You need only a few colours, a bright yellow for highlights and general brightening, black and a chocolaty brown for toning down. Two greens - a dark and a light, don't choose bluish greens - will enable you to subtly vary the colouring of your foliage. Gloss paint is OK, the gloss won't show as you will spray only the gentlest of fine mists.

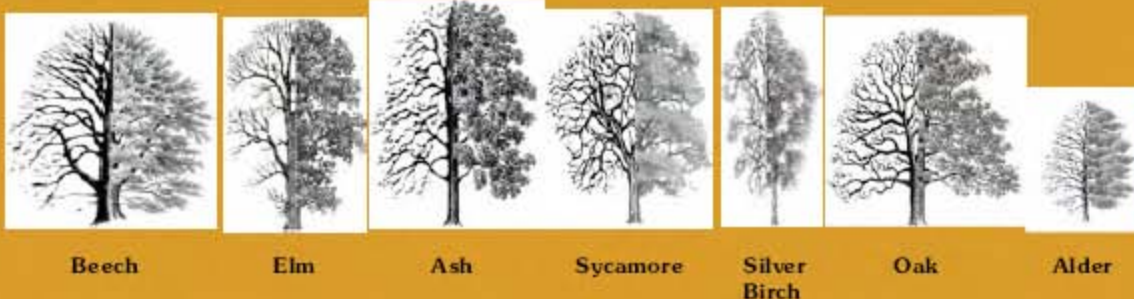
For the foliage use Gaugemaster scatters. There are various shades including Spring / Summer greens and Autumnal browns. These are illustrated on the side of this box. The texture and colour of the foliage are easily adjusted by varying the quantity of scatter applied and lightly spraying aerosol tints after the scatter has dried into position.

Apply adhesive to the tree either as a spray, DL28 Scenic Spray Adhesive, or by rolling the tree in a shallow puddle of DL09 Scatter Grip. The method used will give a different effect to the way the scatters build up on the branches and allows you to significantly vary the appearance of the finished trees. Apply the scatters with a fine sieve or dribble straight from the pack.

Plant your trees. It is best to position you trees in groups. In larger areas of woodland there tends to be less variation in height, whilst smaller groupings will include trees with a more noticeable height difference. Do not leave too much space between your trees, in dense woodland everything is surprisingly closely packed together.

Make a small hole for your tree and fix it in position with DL10 Speedbond, or better still with a hot-melt glue gun, this will enable you to build up the base of the tree and simulate a few surface roots.

The chart alongside will give you a rough idea of heights in HO / OO, N and Z gauges in relation to a scale height man in metres.



Apply Adhesive



Sprinkle Scatters



Ready for Planting