

Aibidil na Gàidhlig le Craobhan

The Gaelic Alphabet Through Trees

The Gaelic alphabet contains only 18 letters. Though there are also some letters with accents, these are not considered additional letters. Each letter of the Gaelic alphabet relates to a tree name and this system was used to teach children the alphabet, much as we use the alphabet song in English. There are differing combinations of tree names between the various versions of the Gaelic alphabet and there is no definitive version.

Here is a rough guide to the pronunciation of the tree names in Gaelic:

Ailm – al-lim	Luis – looss
Beith – bay	Muin – moon
Coll – call	Nuin – noon
Dair – dahr	Oir/Onn – ohr/awn
Eadha – feh-yah	Peith bhog – pay voh-k
Feàrn – feyarn	Ruis – roosh
Gort – gorsht	Suil – sool
Uath – oo-ah	Teine – chain-yuh
logh – ee-ogh	Ur – oor



A

Ailm
Elm



B

Beith
Birch



C

Coll
Hazel



D

Dair
Oak



E

Eadha
Aspen



F

Feàrn
Alder



G

Gort
Ivy



H

Uath
Hawthorn



I

Iogh
Yew



L

Luis
Rowan



M

Muin
Vine



N

Nuin
Ash



O

Oir/Onn
Gorse



P

Peith bhog
Downy Birch



R

Ruis
Elder



S

Suil
Willow



T

Teine
Whin



U

Ur
Heather