

# 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