

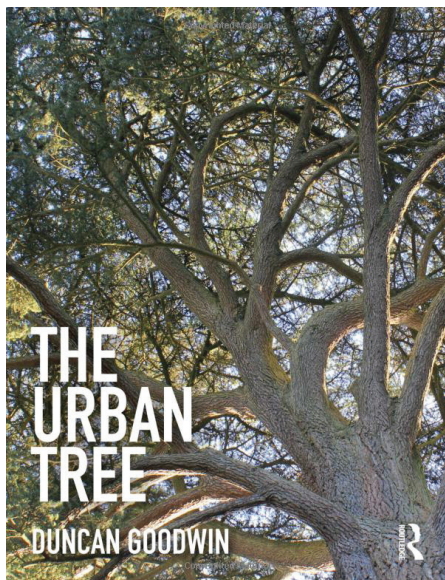
## **The Urban Tree**

Duncan Goodwin

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All tree species can trace their origins to a forest somewhere on the planet. However, nowadays many millions of trees are raised in specialised nurseries and spend their lives in cities where they provide a whole range of ecosystem services to urban dwellers. These include landscape, aesthetics, shelter, shade, pollution control, water filtration, wildlife habitats, noise abatement, climate change mitigation etc. All of these attributes were never more important than now given the pace of population change from rural to urban. In his introduction to Chapter One the author states:

In 2008 the planet reached an important milestone. The world population moved from being predominantly rural to becoming mainly urban (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division 2008). This trend is set to intensify, and it is predicted that by 2050, two thirds of the world's population will be city dwelling (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division 2014).

It is entirely appropriate therefore that the urban tree is receiving more attention than heretofore in published textbooks. This volume is very welcome in that context.

In it the author draws on his vast experience in the variety of roles in which he has worked. It combines science and practice very well.

Chapters include:

- So, what have urban trees ever done for us?
- Tree structure and function – how do trees work?
- Urban soils and functional trees.
- Site assessment and analysis.
- Plant production. (This is a very useful chapter on a subject that does not always receive the attention it deserves.)
- Tree planting and establishment: technical design.
- Disorders, pests and diseases.
- Trees, regulations and law. (Irish readers should acquaint themselves with Irish law from other sources, several of which are available.)
- An integrated approach to green infrastructure.

It also contains a useful set of appendices.

If your professional life involves looking after urban trees, then this a book for you. It is a wonderful combination of science and practical knowledge/experience and is recommended.

*Kevin Hutchinson*