

Plant
Guide



Hedge Planting *made easy*

Screen unwanted
views & absorb
sound



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for garden pleasure

Hedges offer much more than defining a boundary. They screen unwanted views, absorb sound, deflect wind and offer a haven for local wildlife.



Evergreen Hedging

Evergreens make fine hedges with the bonus of providing shelter or privacy all year round. They do tend to take more maintenance and need to be pruned annually, ideally twice a year.

- **Berberis** (Barberry)
- **Buxus sempervirens** (Box)
- **Coprosma repens**
- **Cotoneaster**
- **Elaeagnus**
- **Escallonia**
- **Euonymus japonicus** (Japanese Spindle)
- **Griselinia littoralis**
- **Hebe**
- **Ilex aquifolium** (Holly)
- **Ilex crenata** (Japanese holly)
- **Laurus nobilis** (Bay)
- **Lavandula angustifolia** (English lavender)
- **Ligustrum vulgare** (Privet)
- **Lonicera nitida** (Poor man's box)
- **Olearia** (Daisy bush)
- **Photinia x fraseri 'Red Robin'**
- **Pittosporum**
- **Prunus laurocerasus** (Cherry laurel)
- **Prunus lusitanica** (Portuguese laurel)
- **Pyracantha**
- **Rhododendron ponticum**
- **Quercus ilex** (Holm oak)
- **Rhamnus alaternus** (Italian buckthorn)
- **Taxus baccata** (Yew)
- **Viburnum tinus** (Laurustinus)

Conifers for Hedging

Conifers are popular evergreen choices but need to be pruned regularly. With the exception of Yew and *Thuja plicata* 'Atrovirens', neglected or overgrown conifer hedges cannot be restored easily.

- **Chamaecyparis lawsoniana** (Lawson's cypress)
- **x Cuprocyparis leylandii** (Leyland cypress)
- **Taxus baccata** (Yew)
- **Thuja plicata 'Atrovirens'** (Western red cedar)

Native Hedgerow

Wildlife friendly hedgerows can be created using a mix of different native hedgerow plants. These are often best planted as bare root 'whips' during the autumn and winter months.

- **Acer campestre** (Field maple)
- **Crataegus monogyna** (Hawthorn)
- **Carpinus betulus** (Hornbeam)
- **Corylus avellana** (Hazel)
- **Fagus sylvatica** (Beech)
- **Fuchsia magellanica**
- **Prunus spinosa** (Blackthorn/Sloe)
- **Rosa rugosa** (Hedgehog rose)
- **Salix alba** (White willow)
- **Sambucus nigra** (Elder)
- **Viburnum opulus** (Guelder rose)

Deciduous Hedging

Deciduous trees and shrubs also make fine hedges. You won't get the same privacy as you do with an evergreen hedge but they will filter strong winter winds more easily and be more forgiving of neglect.

Trim in late summer but if you miss a year or two they will respond well to renovation.

- **Acer campestre** (Field maple)
- **Crataegus monogyna** (Hawthorn)
- **Carpinus betulus** (Hornbeam)
- **Corylus avellana** (Hazel)
- **Euonymus europaeus** (Spindle)
- **Fagus sylvatica** (Beech)
- **Fuchsia magellanica**
- **Prunus spinosa** (Blackthorn/Sloe)
- **Rosa rugosa** (Hedgehog rose)
- **Salix alba** (White willow)
- **Sambucus nigra** (Elder)
- **Viburnum opulus** (Guelder rose)

Planting

Planting and caring for a new hedge is very similar to that for any new tree or shrub. Good soil preparation beforehand will give your hedge the best start in life.

Position boundary hedges so they are set back from the boundary line. This will allow the hedge to fill out before it becomes an issue with overhanging the pavement or a neighbour's property.

Prepare the ground by digging over a strip around a meter wide. Soils that become waterlogged in winter may require a permanent drainage system. Lay the plants out in a staggered zigzag pattern, adjust as necessary and water in well.

Pruning

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 prohibits hedge cutting during the nesting season. For this reason it is advisable to prune most hedges, particularly evergreens between August and October.

Deciduous hedge cutting should take place in late summer and rejuvenation can be completed in February, before birds start nesting.



How many do I need?

The number of plants needed to make a hedge depends on the density of the plant variety being used. In poor soils or difficult conditions, reduce the spacing to increase plant density.

A good rule of thumb is to plant every 50cm or so in a zig-zag pattern. To work out how many plants you need:

- 1 **Measure the distance in metres (e.g. 5)**
- 2 **To plant every 50cm, double the distance (e.g. 10 plants)**
- 3 **Add 1 extra plant to finish the run (e.g. total of 11 plants)**

Hedges by Application

Fast-Growing Hedges

- **x Cuprocyparis leylandii** (Leyland cypress) †
- **Eucalyptus gunnii** (Cider gum)
- **Ligustrum vulgare** (Privet)
- **Photinia x fraseri 'Red Robin'**
- **Prunus laurocerasus** (Cherry laurel)
- **Rhododendron ponticum**

Coastal Hedges

- **Coprosma repens**
- **Elaeagnus**
- **Escallonia**
- **Euonymus japonicus** (Japanese spindle)
- **Eucalyptus gunnii** (Cider gum)
- **Fuchsia magellanica**
- **Griselinia littoralis**
- **Laurus nobilis** (Bay)
- **Pittosporum**
- **Quercus ilex** (Holm oak)
- **Tamarix tetrandra** (Tamarisk)

Security Hedges

- **Berberis** (Barberry)
- **Crataegus monogyna** (Hawthorn)
- **Hippophae rhamnoides** (Sea buckthorn)
- **Ilex aquifolium** (Holly)
- **Prunus spinosa** (Blackthorn/sloe)
- **Pyracantha** (Firethorn)
- **Rosa rugosa** (Hedgehog rose)

Flowering Hedges

- **Escallonia**
- **Forsythia x intermedia**
- **Fuchsia magellanica**
- **Hebe**
- **Lavandula angustifolia** (English lavender)
- **Olearia** (Daisy bush)
- **Photinia x fraseri 'Red Robin'**
- **Pyracantha** (Firethorn)
- **Viburnum tinus** (Laurustinus)

Hedging for Shaded Locations

- **Corylus avellana** (Hazel)
- **Cotoneaster**
- **Euonymus europaeus** (Spindle)
- **Euonymus japonicus** (Japanese spindle)
- **Ilex aquifolium** (Holly)
- **Taxus baccata** (Yew)
- **Viburnum tinus** (Laurustinus)
- **Viburnum opulus** (Guelder rose)

Hedging for Dry, Exposed Locations

- **Elaeagnus**
- **Hippophae rhamnoides** (Sea buckthorn)
- **Laurus nobilis** (Bay)
- **Lavandula angustifolia** (English lavender)
- **Quercus ilex** (Holm oak)
- **Rhamnus alaternus** (Italian buckthorn)

Low Hedges

- **Buxus sempervirens** (Box)
- **Hebe**
- **Ilex crenata** (Japanese holly)
- **Lavandula angustifolia** (English lavender)
- **Lonicera nitida** (Poor man's box)



Quick guide

- The optimal planting time is from early autumn to early spring
- Delay planting if soil is waterlogged or frozen
- Keep new hedges well-watered for the first 2 years, especially if planted in summer
- Feed with a general slow release fertiliser

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