

Planting a Native Hedgerow

The following advice note is prepared to help people who intend to plant a native hedgerow choose the correct species, plant and maintain the hedgerow in a manner likely to enable it to establish successfully.

Hedgerows have many practical uses including marking boundaries and containing livestock. Their shape and species mix has an effect on their texture and colour and these variations add to the character of the landscape.

Hedgerows form an important habitat for associated plants and wildlife, not only as a haven but also providing wildlife corridors for insects, birds and mammals to move from one place to another.

Choosing The Right Species

- Take a look at other hedgerows in the local area and choose species that you can see are doing well.
- If planting a relatively long length of hedgerow, aim to use a mix including at least 5 species.
- Use the species in nearby hedgerows as a guide to which to choose, as this helps to retain local distinctiveness.
- Consider using locally sourced, native species. Information and suppliers are available from www.floralocale.org.

The following is a list of some native hedgerow species:

Hawthorn, Guelder Rose, Dog Rose, Holly, Blackthorn, Hazel, Spindle Tree, Wild Privet, Field Maple, Wayfaring Tree

A typical mix might include:

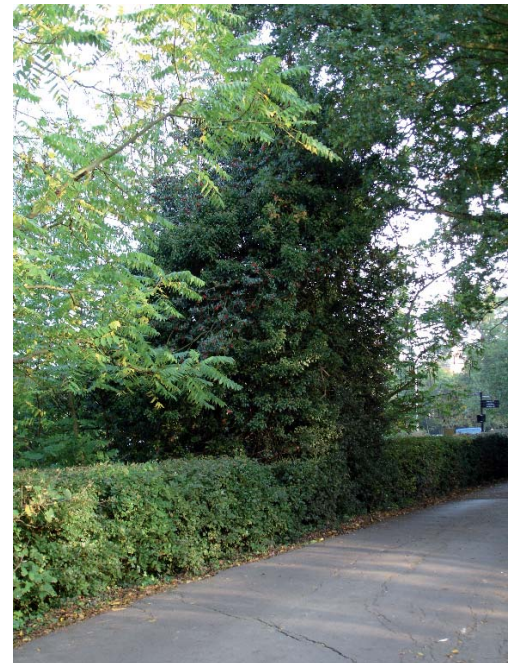
Hawthorn 60%, Field Maple 10%, Hazel 10%, Guelder Rose 5%, Dog Rose 5%, Holly 5%, Wild Privet 5%

Trees may also be included in a new hedgerow where appropriate, to create a multi level screen. The following is a list of some typical native hedgerow tree species:

Wild Crab Apple, Oak, Field Maple, Ash, Hawthorn, Hornbeam, Rowan, Wild Cherry, Holly

Preparation

- The best time for planting is late autumn, after mid-November, although anytime between October and March is all right, provided the ground is not frozen.
- Create a 1m wide, weed free strip either by ploughing, digging or in limited cases, treating with a systemic herbicide.
- Ensure the bare roots of the plants do not dry out before planting.



Planting

- Plants should be supplied in accordance with the Horticultural Trade Association's National Plant specification and be sourced from a nursery that is a Member of the Horticultural Trades Association Nursery Certification Scheme.
- Plant in trenches large enough to take full spread of roots (20cm depth x 40cm width). Back fill with a previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from the pit, together with suitable compost and additional topsoil as required.
- Use 60-90cm high stock.
- Plant in a double staggered row approximately 30cm apart.
- Set out plants evenly using the plan below as a guide.
- The base of the hedge should be mulched with a 50-75mm layer of composted bark to stop weed growth and retain moisture in the soil.
- Where necessary, protect plants from damage and grazing by using protective tubes or spiral guards.
- If using bare root stock, ideally plant in late autumn after mid-November, although planting anytime between October and March is possible, if the ground is not frozen.
- If planting at any other time use containerised stock and ensure good watering regime.



Maintenance

- Maintain weed control for at least 2 seasons.
- To encourage wildlife, trim the hedgerow no more than every 2nd year. This allows the shrubs and trees to produce more flowers, nuts and berries.
- Never trim the hedgerow between the beginning of April and the end of August when it would be harmful to invertebrates and nesting birds. The ideal time to trim the hedgerow is between January and February.

