



# HEDGING GUIDE

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A hedge is far more than a row of plants in a line. A well-planned hedge can:

- block wind or dust,
- provide privacy,
- screen an unattractive view or
- create a living fence or wall.

A hedge can be formal or informal. Plants can be selected from species that have coloured foliage, flowers, berries or fruit. Whatever the purpose of your hedge, think about its' eventual height and access for trimming.

The best hedge plants should be ideally suited to your site (ie climate, soil, sun, shade, frost). Hedging plants should be leafy and dense to the ground, even when mature. Plants should be hardy to competition from weeds and drought, and should be of moderate growth rate – vigorous growth means higher maintenance.

## TEN STEPS TO A BETTER HEDGE

1. Clear the area. Clear competing vegetation by using a herbicide (eg Roundup) or mechanically.
2. Prepare the soil. Cultivate a 1m wide strip using a rotary hoe or fork, spaced to a 35cm depth. Dig in well-rotted compost and manure.
3. Set up a string-line with stakes at either end, mark accurate spacings. See further on for advice on appropriate spacing.
4. Dig planting holes, about double the size of the root-ball.
5. Add a slow-release fertilizer (Grotabs are ideal) to each hole.
6. Plant. Gently remove plants from the containers, position into hole. Bury 3cm of the stem in the soil. Check spacing, then backfill.
7. Firm soil around the root-ball with the ball (not the heel) of your foot.
8. Water well, making sure the water goes deep into the soil.
9. Add mulch. Keep it away from the trunk (about a hand's span) to avoid fungal problems.
10. Trim. Clipping the top shoots encourages your new hedge to grow thick and strong.

## HEDGE CARE

Feeding and Watering: Hedges require extra food and water due to close spacing.

Mulching: Regular top-ups helps your hedge make full use of rainfall and irrigation.

Clipping: The more formal your hedge, the more trimming in needs. Aim for dwarf hedge to start, then gradually build height and width once plants are full and dense. Clip slow growers twice yearly and fast growers may need monthly trims.

### SUGGESTED HEDGING VARIETIES

NAME	DESCRIPTION	SPACING	HEIGHT	APPROX GROWTH RATE/YEAR
<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	Glossy foliage, soft pink flowers in summer. Hardy to cold and drought.	60cm	2m	70cm
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box Hedging	20cm	1m	30cm
<i>Buxus suffruticosa</i>	Dwarf Box – more compact and slower grower.	20cm	50cm	15cm
<i>Camellia japonica</i> 'Les Dury'	Various varieties – choose semi-upright varieties for hedging. Flowers Sept-Nov. Red flowers and bronze new growth. Dark green leaves.	60cm – 1m	2.5m	70cm
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	Various varieties. Choose semi-upright varieties. Smaller-leaved and early spring flowering in May-Sept.	60cm – 1m	2.5m	60cm
<i>Camellia setsugekka</i>	Large single white flowers with golden stamens. Flowers May.	60cm – 1m	2.5m	60cm
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> (Hornbeam)	Deciduous. Holds autumn leaves through until spring. Hardy to cold and drought.	1 – 1.5m	5m	1m
<i>Chaenomeles cathayensis</i> (Chinese Quince)	Pale soft blossom-pink flowers in spring followed by autumn foliage colour and large apple-sized round yellow fruits which can be used for jelly. Excellent as an espaliered plant.	80cm	2.5m	1m
<i>Choisya ternata</i> (Mexican Orange Blossom)	Medium-green foliage with white flowers. Hardy to frost.	70cm	2.5m	50cm
<i>Coprosma</i> 'Beatsons Gold'	Small leaves of green/gold. Best in open sunny sites.	50cm	1 – 2m	50cm
<i>Coprosma</i> 'Roys Red'	Small leaves of copper-bronze. Best in an open sunny site.	50cm	1 – 2m	50cm
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	Glossy green leaves, paler underneath. Red berries.	1m	5m	1m
<i>Corokia</i> 'Bronze King'	Dark purple-bronze foliage. Good for hot, dry situations.	80cm	1.5m	50cm
<i>Cupressus x leylandii</i>	Various selections available – see catalogue.	1.5 – 3m	6m	1m
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> (Green ake ake)	Erect-growing habit, stands the dry. Not for areas of -8 degrees.	1m	4m	1m
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> 'Purpurea' (Purple ake ake)	Purple-foliaged form of above.	1m	4m	1m
<i>Escallonia</i> 'Apple Blossom'	Soft pink flowers in Oct/Nov.	50cm – 1m	1.5m	60cm
<i>Escallonia</i> 'Fields Scarlet'	Shiny dark-green foliage. Deep pink flowers Nov/Feb.	50cm – 1m	3m	80cm
<i>Escallonia</i> 'White Profusion'	Medium-green foliage. White flowers Nov/Feb.	50cm – 1m	3m	80cm
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (English Beech)	Slower to establish than Hornbeam. Holds autumn leaves through until the spring.	1m	5m	80cm

NAME	DESCRIPTION	SPACING	HEIGHT	APPROX GROWTH RATE/YEAR
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	Bold foliage contrasts against red, rata-like flowers. Edible fruit. Best in a sunny site.	60cm – 1m	3m	60cm
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i> (Broadleaf)	Glossy, medium-green leaves. Sun or shade.	1m	3m	80cm
<i>Hebe</i> varieties	Low hedge varieties.	80cm	1m	
<i>Ilex</i> varieties (Holly)	Various varieties. Dark green and variegated forms. Totally hardy. Slower growing.	50 – 75cm	3.5m	80cm
<i>Laurus azorica</i> (Canary Island Laurel)	Medium-green new growth contrasts with darker older growth. Tolerates hot dry and poor soils.	1m	3m	1m
<i>Lonicera nitida</i> (Box Honeysuckle)	Very fast growing.	30cm	2m	80cm
<i>Nothofagus fusca</i> (Red Beech)	Best on good soils, not too dry. Can be kept narrow if needed. Good red winter colour.	80cm -1m	4 – 5m	1m
<i>Olearia avicenniaefolia</i>	Extremely hardy in cold and dry conditions.	80cm – 1m	3 – 4m	80cm – 1m
<i>Phebalium squameum</i> (Satinwood)	Light-green foliage. Small, white flowers.	60cm	5m	1m
<i>Photinia</i> ‘Red Robin’	Bright red new growth. Older leaves are deep green and glossy. Vigorous.	1m	2m	1m
<i>Pittosporum eugenoides</i> (Lemonwood)	Larger leaves of light-green.	1m	3m	1m
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	Attractive dense foliage with scented flowers. Hardy to wind, drought, frost and coastal conditions.	1m	3.5m	1m
<i>Pittosporum</i> ‘Stephens Island’	Olive-green foliage. Tolerates coastal and inland areas. Slightly less vigorous.	75cm	3m	60 – 70cm
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> ‘Waimea’	Light-green foliage. Almost identical to ‘Mountain Green’, but more cold-hardy and slightly more compact.	60cm	2.5m	60cm
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> ‘Wrinkled Blue’	Silvery-blue foliage, similar to ‘James Sterling’ and ‘Silver Sheen’. Vigorous – quick to establish.	1m	3.5m	1m
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> (Common Laurel)	Large mid-green leaves.	75cm	5m	80cm
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i> (Portugal Laurel)	Glossy dark-green leaves. Prefers well-drained soils.	75cm	4m	80cm
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Silver-grey foliage. Smaller pale-blue flowers. Fast-growing.	50cm	3m	1m
<i>Teucrium parvifolium</i>	Green to brown-green foliage. Small white flowers.	75cm	1.5m	75cm
<i>Viburnum</i> ‘Emerald Beauty’	Dark-green foliage. Dark tan-coloured stems. Flowers are white late winter/spring. A more compact form. Sun or shade. Cold or hot and dry.	60cm	2m	1m
<i>Viburnum tinus</i> ‘Lucidum’	Larger-leaved form with greater vigor. Medium-green foliage with white flowers late winter/spring.	1m	3m	1m