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Info 10: HEDGING GUIDE

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 it 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. When growing a lower hedge, space plants closer together.

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)	Great in formal gardens as a border.	20cm	1m	20cm
<i>Camellia japonica</i> Eg 'Les Jury'	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> Eg <i>setsugekka</i>	Various varieties. Choose semi-upright varieties. Smaller-leaved and early spring flowering in May-Sept.	60cm – 1m	2.5m	60cm
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> (Hornbeam)	Deciduous. Holds autumn leaves through until spring. Hardy to cold and drought.	80cm – 1m	5m	1m
<i>Choisya ternata</i> (Mexican Orange Blossom)	Medium-green foliage with white flowers. Hardy to frost.	70cm	2m	50cm
<i>Coprosma crassifolia</i> , <i>rotundifolia</i> & <i>virescens</i>	All erect, twiggy growth-types that will tolerate poor, dry conditions.	50cm	1.5m	50cm
<i>Coprosma</i> 'Roys Red'	Small leaves of copper-bronze. Best in an open sunny site.	50cm	1.5m	50cm
<i>Coprosma tenuifolium</i> 'Purpurea'	Greenish-bronze foliage changes to deeper colour in winter.	50cm	1.5m	50cm
<i>Corokia</i> 'Bronze King', <i>cotoneaster</i> , 'Red Wonder' & 'Yellow Wonder'	Great for hot, dry situations.	60cm	1.5m	50cm
<i>Cupressus x leylandii</i>	Various selections available – see catalogue.	1.5 – 2m	6m	1m
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> (Green ake ake)	Erect-growing habit. Stands the dry. Avoid areas of -8 degrees.	80cm - 1m	4m	1m
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> 'Purpurea' (Purple ake ake)	Purple-foliaged form of above.	80cm - 1m	4m	1m
<i>Escallonia</i> 'Apple Blossom'	Soft pink flowers in Oct/Nov. Compact growing form.	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
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i> (Feijoa)	Bold foliage contrasts against red, rata-like flowers. Edible fruit. Best in a sunny site.	60cm – 1m	2m	60cm
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i> (Broadleaf)	Glossy, medium-green leaves. Sun or shade.	80cm - 1m	3m	80cm
<i>Hebe</i> varieties Eg <i>topiara</i> , 'Species Q'	Low hedge varieties.	60cm	1m	20cm
<i>Ilex</i> varieties (Holly)	'Blue Angel' – red berries if 'Blue Prince' planted nearby. 'Blue Prince' has no berries. Thornless Holly – slower-growing dark green foliage.	60cm	2 – 2.5m	30cm
<i>Lonicera nitida</i> (Box Honeysuckle)	Very fast growing. Trim regularly to get tighter hedge.	60cm	2m	80cm

NAME	DESCRIPTION	SPACING	HEIGHT	APPROX GROWTH RATE/YEAR
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i> (Pohutakawa)	Great hedge in coastal areas. Not tolerant of frost.	80cm	3m	60cm
<i>Metrosideros</i> 'Maungapika' (Southern Rata x Pohutakawa)	Hardy to -5 degrees celsius.	60cm	2.5m	60cm
<i>Metrosideros</i> 'Mistral' (Northern Rata x Pohutakawa)	Hardy to -5 degrees celsius.	50cm	3m	60cm
<i>Myrtus communis</i> (Common Myrtle)	Tolerates drought. Makes a tough, easily-trimmed hedge. Light green foliage.	60cm	2m	60cm
<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>Nothofagus solandrii</i> (Black Beech)	Tolerates poor, dry soils.	80cm – 1m	4 – 5m	1m
<i>Olearia lineata</i> 'Dartonii' (Twiggy Tree Daisy)	Fragrant white flowers. Tolerates drought, cold and exposure.	80cm – 1m	To 5m	80cm – 1m
<i>Olea spp.</i> (Olive)	More for tall screening than a formal hedge. Varieties: Frantoio, Leccino, & Koroneki are more compact and trim to a slightly denser form.	1 – 1.5m	4m	1m
<i>Olearia x oleifolia</i> 'Oleifolia'	Great in dry and partially shaded areas. Masses of white flowers in summer. Hardy.	60cm	2m	80cm – 1m
<i>Phebalium squameum</i> (Satinwood)	Light-green foliage. Small, white flowers.	60cm	4m	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</i> 'Margorie Channon'	A variegated form of <i>P. tenuifolium</i> .	80cm	1.5m	60cm
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	Attractive dense foliage with scented flowers. Hardy to wind, drought, frost and coastal conditions.	1m	3m	1m
<i>Pittosporum</i> 'Stephens Island'	Olive-green foliage. Tolerates coastal and inland areas. Slightly less vigorous than <i>P. tenuifolium</i> .	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.	75cm	3m	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>Plagianthus divaricatus</i> (Swamp Ribbonwood)	Wet and dry tolerant. Will grow thick and tight when trimmed.	80cm	2m	1m
<i>Plagianthus regius</i> (Ribbonwood)	Great for country gardens. Quick to establish. Trim to keep juvenile smaller leaf. Semi-deciduous. Lets light in during winter.	80cm	4m	1m
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i> (Portuguese Laurel)	Glossy dark-green leaves. Prefers well-drained soils.	75cm	4m	80cm
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Silver-grey foliage. Small pale-blue flowers. Fast-growing.	50 – 80cm	3m	1m
<i>Teucrium parvifolium</i>	Green to brown-green foliage. Small white flowers late spring. Tolerates dry and poor soils.	75cm	1.5m	75cm
<i>Tilia x Europea</i> (Lime)	Often grown as pleached hedges – lower branches trimmed to expose bare stems.	2m	4m	1m
<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.	60 – 80cm	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

Visit our display hedges at the nursery – see exactly what yours might look like!