

This hedgerow can consist of bareroot and containerised, native and introduced species and will be an attractive addition to any garden providing shelter, screening, flowers, scent and a haven for wildlife.

plants and tools required to plant 100 metres:

plants required:

- range of barerooted and/or containerised species (native and/or introduced) dependent on objectives and preferences

materials, tools and labour required:

- ground rock phosphate, compound fertiliser (10-10-20) or rotted farmyard manure (if necessary)
- hire of small digger / JCB with 18"-24" bucket
- spade
- some builder's sand
- pair of secateurs
- sharp knife
- appropriate groundcover / mulch (black woven plastic, quarry dust, gravel, geotextile, biodegradable mulches such as bark, etc.)
- appropriate herbicide (not essential)
- appropriate fence type
- 3 mandays

before you start...

- the secret of planting a hedge successfully depends mainly on using good quality plants, cultivating the soil prior to planting, controlling grass and weeds and keeping browsing animals away for the first few years
- consider location, access points and traffic safety carefully
- start planning in summer, do it well and try to plant a short run of hedge every year
- fence off if necessary



site preparation is essential for successful growth

- spread well-rotted farmyard manure, pelletised chicken manure, compound fertiliser or ground rock phosphate
- using a JCB or mini-digger, dig soil over to 25cm (10") deep and 50cm (2') wide, flip soil over and with the bucket teeth, loosen soil
- ensure the site has sufficient top-soil and avoid waterlogged, shallow and very exposed sites
- keep 1m (3.5') away from fence or wall
- if planting (or infilling) on the site of an old hedge: remove old soil and add fresh topsoil mixed with well-rotted manure
- spread out a permeable, black ground cover fabric and dig in sides to prevent it from blowing away

plants and planting

- buy good quality, sturdy plants close to the time of planting
 - multi-stemmed plants are fine
 - if using potted plants ensure roots are not potbound
- soak roots before planting (1 hour) and do not expose roots to air
- do not plant in wet, windy or frosty conditions
- cut small crosses in the permeable ground cover
- plant bareroot and/or potted plants
- planting is carried out:
 - December to February (bareroot)
 - April to May (potted)
- fold the ground cover back into position around the base of the plant after planting
- cover cuts with a 2.5cm (1") thick layer of builder's sand
- spread layer of quarry dust, blinding, gravel, shredded bark, wood chips, etc. over this permeable ground cover





after planting care:

- water newly planted hedge during dry spells
- keep neighbouring grass and weeds cut over the growing season
- pull re-colonising weeds (couch grass, buttercups, etc.) back off the ground cover 3 or 4 times during the growing season

early management over the next 3 winters:

- monitor weed growth and carry out weeding if required
 - majority of all new hedgerows and shelterbelts fail or struggle due to poor weed control!
 - replace dead or very weak plants
- trim hedge as appropriate (depending on species)

weed control alternatives:

Biodegradable mulches

Organic mulches (straw, bark, etc.) work very well in sheltered areas. Kill off vegetation prior to soil preparation (light exclusion or herbicide). Carry out soil preparation and planting as described above but without using any plastic.

Plant trees and shrubs directly into the prepared soil. After planting, apply a thick layer of organic mulch such as straw, shredded bark, cocoa shells, rushes, etc. between the plants. For this layer to be an effective weed control barrier, it is essential to keep it topped up and raked over. Grass clippings can also be used during the growing season to control the emergence of weeds, apply well-rotted manure as mulch in the autumn.

Herbicides

Herbicides are another alternative although many hedgerows have been killed by the inappropriate use of herbicides. Use a spraysield if required and read the label before use!

Fire brigade actions

Other weed control systems are mainly "fire brigade actions": cutting grass by using a brushcutter or hand sickle. Weeds can be pulled either by hand or by using a hoe. Weeds can also be regularly trampled. Avoid cutting or trampling plants!



general remarks:

- a range of species is more attractive and valuable to wildlife
- see the factsheet on selecting hedgerow species for a detailed list of species, combinations and ideas
- also add some, fairly small trees such as rowan, guelder rose, hazel, spindle, field maple, whitebeam, elder, crab apple, wild cherry, bird cherry, wild pear, etc.
- if children are present: avoid using prickly or poisonous plants!