

This fact sheet suggests a wide range of hedging species for both rural and urban areas. Some species are particularly attractive providing shelter, screening, flowers and a haven for wildlife.

## Species for rural areas

- hawthorn (=whitethorn, quickthorn):
  - most useful hedging plant
  - tolerates a wide range of soils
  - tough, fast growing, very stock-proof
  - excellent for laying and coppicing
  - avoid planting in shady or exposed places or on top of ditches
  - plant 2-6 hawthorn/metre (in single or double staggered row)



- blackthorn (=sloe):
  - grows better on heavy soils
  - slower growing than hawthorn
  - useful for gapping up (suckers)
  - early flowering
  - tolerates exposure

- holly:
  - tolerates most soils except heavy wet clay (difficult to establish unless root-balled)
  - slow starter but very attractive
  - if berries are required: plant 10 female and 1 male plant (if planting only one, choose "JC Van Tol" or "Pyramidalis")
  - plant in May
  - will grow in shade and on old hawthorn sites
  - plant: 2-4 holly/metre



- beech (and copper beech):
  - grows well on drier, exposed, mineral soils
  - will hold on to its golden leaves over the winter if trimmed regularly
  - unable to coppice
  - plant 2-5 plants/m (in a single or double staggered row)
  - alternative in heavy ground: hornbeam

consider also:

- hazel: suitable for drier more fertile soils, very good for wildlife, prevents soil erosion, traditionally coppiced
- guelder rose: deciduous, lovely flowers, berries and autumn colours, plant 2/m
- gorse: grows well in coastal and exposed areas, striking spring flowers, very stock-proof if trimmed regularly
- field maple: tall deciduous hedge, lovely autumn colours, shade tolerant
- some trees such as: pedunculate oak, sessile oak, red oak, rowan, field maple, whitebeam, ash, crab apple, wild cherry, bird cherry, wild pear, hornbeam, elder, alder, downy birch, silver birch

# Selecting Hedgerow Species

## Species for urban areas / gardens

Consider one of the following combinations for your garden:

- mixed, bird-friendly hedge with loads of berries:
  - Ilex aquifolium, Pyracantha, Sambucus nigra, Viburnum opulus, Cotoneaster lacteus, Berberis darwinii, Hippophae, Symphoricarpos
- mixed flowering hedge:
  - hawthorn, blackthorn, Forsythia, Spiraea x vanhouttei, Potentilla fruticosa, Ribes sanguineum, Rosa canina/rugosa
- mixed evergreen hedge with flowers:
  - Prunus laurocerasus 'Rotundifolia', Escallonia 'Red Elf', Ligustrum ovalifolium, Photinia 'Red Robin', Ilex aquifolium
- mixed fragrant hedge:
  - Buddleia davidii, Abeliophyllum, Rosa rugosa, Philadelphus 'Virginal', Syringa vulgaris
- mixed hedge with year-round interest:
  - Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea, Cotoneaster lacteus, Pyracantha 'Red Column', Escallonia, Photinia x fraseri 'Red Robin', Viburnum opulus
  - Tamarix ramosissima, Forsythia intermedia 'spectabilis', Philadelphus 'Virginal', Ribes sanguineum 'King Edward', Viburnum bodnantense 'Dawn', Viburnum opulus 'Roseum'



Make sure to include also some trees such as:

- Amelanchier, alder, willows, spindle, red oak, rowan, field maple, whitebeam, crab apple, wild cherry, bird cherry, wild pear, elder, downey birch, silver birch

Here are some more suggestions:

Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea, B. darwinii	Very thorny, needs well-drained soil, lovely leaf, flower and berry colours, plant 3/m
Buxus sempervirens (box)	Small, neat, evergreen, slow, poisonous to livestock, trim very regularly, plant 5/m
Chaenomeles (Japanese quince)	Easy to grow, thorny, lovely flowers in early spring, plant 2-3/m
Cotoneaster simonsii	Semi-evergreen, small dark green leaves, small white flowers, red berries, shade tolerant, hardy, trim twice a year, plant 2-3/m
Escallonia spp	Evergreen, trim regularly, useful in coastal areas, not fully hardy, plant 2-3/m
Fuchsia spp	Suitable for milder areas, lovely flowers, grow from hardwood cuttings, plant 3/m
Griselinia spp	Bright green, useful in coastal areas, not very hardy, grow from cuttings, plant 3/m
Hedera hibernica (ivy)	Consider planting ivy along a fence: ivy will scramble over the fence creating an evergreen, wildlife-friendly "fedge", plant 3/m
Hypericum 'Hidcote' (St. John's wort)	Semi-evergreen, bushy, yellow flowers, plant 3/m
Ligustrum ovalifolium (privet)	Evergreen, grows in all soils, easily trimmed, plant 3-4/m
Lonicera nitida (poor man's box)	Evergreen, hardy, dense, similar to box but less neat, faster growing and much cheaper, clip at least twice a year, plant 4/m
Olearia macrodonta	Good tall screen, grey-green holly-like leaves, useful in coastal areas, not totally hardy, plant 3/m
Potentilla fruticosa	Suitable for poor soil, masses of yellow flowers, plant 2-3/m
Prunus laurocerasus 'Rotundifolia' (laurel)	Evergreen, good screen, fast-growing, can be cut back hard, glossy large leaves, plant 2-3/m
Pyracantha coccinea (firethorn)	Stockproof, hardy, nice flowers and berries, plant 2/m
Rosa canina, R. rugosa (dog / ramanas rose)	Lovely flowers and hips, thickens gradually, plant 3/m
Skimmia japonica	Lovely flowers and berries, requires acid soil, compact, plant 3-4/m
Spiraea x vanhouttei	Loads of big flowers, plant 3/m
Taxus baccata (yew)	Very long-lived, evergreen, poisonous, plant 2/m
Thuja plicata, T. occidentalis	Tall evergreen hedge, prefers well-drained soil, very hardy, plant 2-3/m