

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