Hedgerows: Planting

Why

- Hedgerow Flora and Fauna

- Shelter
- Landscape
- Flooding regulation
- Carbon sequestration

Planting

- Cultivation is essential for optimum growth
- Digging in well-rotted FYM encourages growth
- Protect roots from drying out during planting
- Plant to same depth as previously planted
- Firm in
Hedgerows: Planting

GLAS Specification

- Double staggered row
- 6 plants per metre

330 mm between rows
330 mm between plants

e.g. 1200 plants in 200 metres

GLAS Native Hedgerow Species

- Blackthorn
- Holly
- Whitethorn

➤ Purchase plants from registered suppliers.
Hedgerows: Planting

Pruning and Plastic

- Prune whitethorn to 75mm

Pruning produces multiple shoots

- Push 450mm wide strip of used silage pit plastic over pruned shoots

Good weed control allows dense growth at ground level

- Leave occasional whitethorn unpruned - to grow up as individual whitethorn tree to flower and fruit. Put on a tree guard

Future whitethorn tree

- Cut hole or slit plastic around holly and future trees

- Press sides of plastic into ground with spade to hold plastic
Hedgerows: Planting

Fencing and ongoing management

- Fence from livestock *until* hedge becomes stockproof
- Fence
  - Stockproof
  - Fit for purpose

Protect against hares and rabbits

- Low electric fencing

Cut annually for first few years - close above previous cuts
Choose appropriate management for each hedgerow type

**Escaped:** suitable for rejuvenation

- Rejuvenate by laying or coppicing
- Allow grow into relict hedgerows

**Dense base:** No need to rejuvenate - if stockproof without wire

- Trim from a wide base with sloping sides
- Leave occasional new whitethorn sapling - to mature as a tree

**Relict hedgerows:** unsuitable for rejuvenation

- Leave alone - high wildlife value
- Rejuvenation may be too stressful for hedge
- Fence off stock from both sides to prevent deterioration by stock tramping through gaps.
Hedgerows: Rejuvenation

Laying

- Make a downward angled cut near to ground level
- Use a billhook, axe or chainsaw
- Retain occasional individual thorn trees
- Secure laid hedgerow against wind and livestock
- Must NOT use digger to lay hedgerows
Coppicing

- Cut stems to below 15cm close to ground level
- Use a chainsaw or circular saw.
- Make a gentle sloping cut to allow water to run off
- Retain occasional individual thorn trees
- Remove unwanted trees by brushing on glyphosate on cut stumps
- Fill in gaps with new plants - 4 per metre
- Consider livestock reach and future access for machine trimming, when positioning the fence
- Control competing vegetation as necessary
- For the first few years after coppicing, cut back to 75mm above previous level of cut, gradually shaping into a triangular shape.

New growth comes from below the cut at ground level
Hedgerows: Rejuvenation

GLAS Specifications

- Coppicing and laying can only take place between 1 September and the 28 February
- Minimum of 10 m in a single continuous length
- Replace plants that die during the next dormant season
- Fence off newly laid or coppiced hedges in a grass or tillage field and protect from livestock
- Trim plants over the course of the contract to ensure a dense hedgerow develops
- Control grass and other competing vegetation

Why?

Remember the purpose of rejuvenation

- To return escaped hedgerows to stockproof hedgerows with a dense base good for wildlife