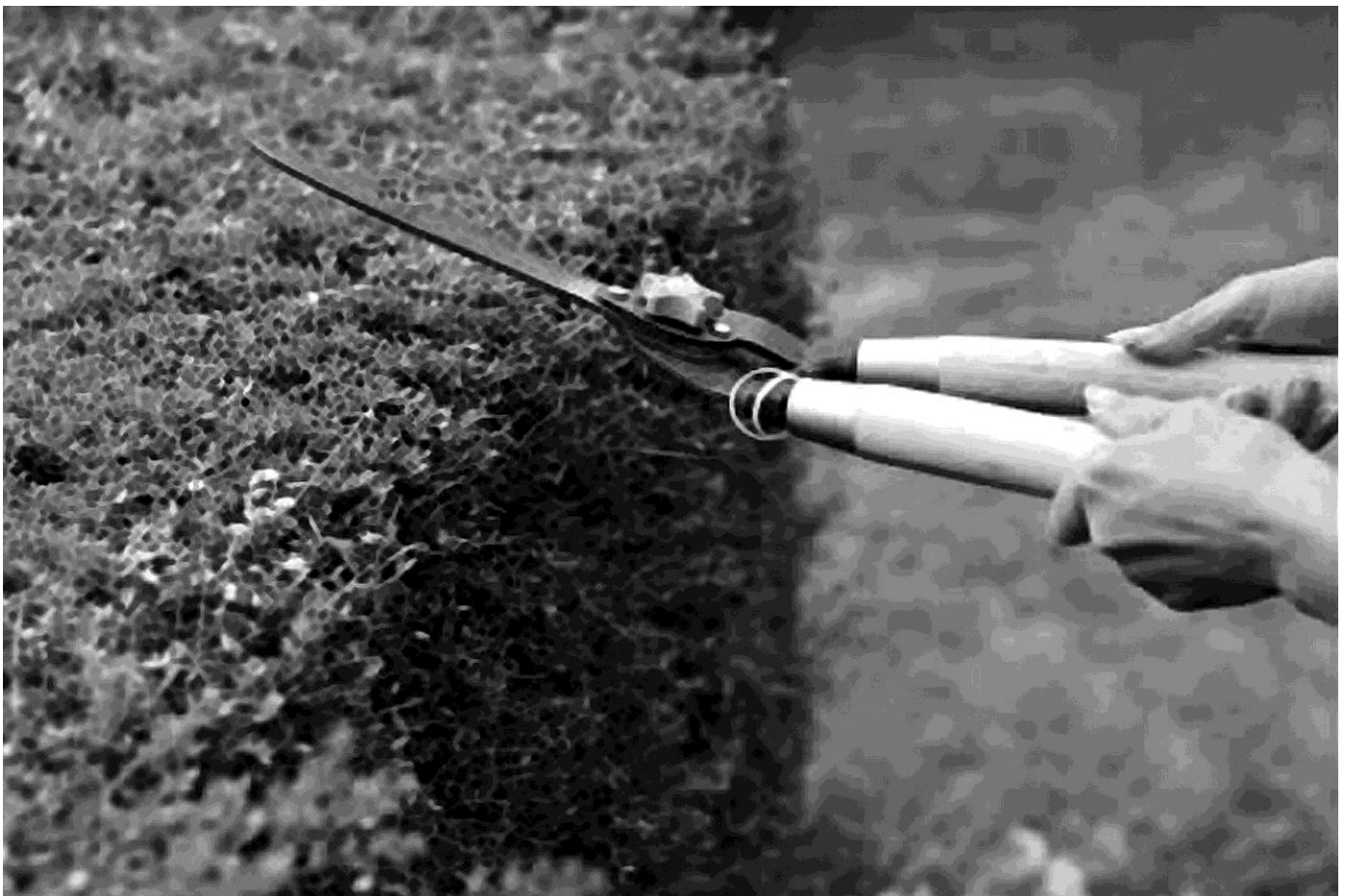




Aylett Nurseries
The Complete Garden Centre

Hedges & Screens

Information Leaflet No. 14



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Hedges and screens provide shelter and privacy in the garden, and can be chosen for ornamental or purely functional purposes. As well as suggesting possible hedging plants, we have also outlined planting and spacing your hedge.

PREPARING THE SITE

Good preparation is essential, perennial weeds must be removed or treated with a suitable weed killer such as 'Glyphosate' or 'Round Up'. The soil should be improved by adding well-rotted manure or compost to the bottom of your planting trench, and compost and bonemeal to the soil used to backfill when planting.

When planting container grown hedging, make sure the plants are well watered first, and plant so that the root-ball is just covered. Firm in carefully.

Bare root hedging should be planted to the level of the original soil mark. Firm in well, re-firming after hard frost.

If a dense hedge is needed, it is best if planting is done in a double staggered row with 30cm between the rows.

AFTERCARE

Keep the plants well watered while establishing. A mulch is beneficial not only to preserve moisture, but also to minimise the competition from weeds. Ensure ground is moist before mulching.

CLIPPING AND PRUNING

Plants need regular clipping to create a neat dense hedge. This must be done from the start rather than waiting until the required height is reached, as this will result in a hedge which is straggly, and bare at the base.

Regular trimming is especially important for conifer hedges, as they will not re-grow from old wood, and so cannot be rejuvenated by hard pruning. The leading shoots on top are the exception to this rule and should not be trimmed until the hedge has exceeded the required height by 30cm. This will cause the plant to bush evenly at the top.

For most formal hedges, trimming twice a year, in May and again in August is sufficient.

Aim to create a wedge shape, narrower at the top and wide at the bottom to reduce snow damage and allow light to reach the base of the hedge.

Formal deciduous hedges and small leaved evergreens are best trimmed with shears or hedge trimmers.

Informal hedges and large leaved evergreens are better cut with secateurs to avoid foliage damage.

Keep the base of the hedge clear of clippings and weeds, which may harbour pests and diseases.

SCREENS AND WINDBREAKS

Very windy and open sites can restrict the range of plants grown. A line of trees can cut down wind speed dramatically, and will also reduce traffic noise etc.

The following TREES are suitable as windbreaks:

Common Name

Norway Maple
Birch
Hawthorn/Quickthorn
Beech
Poplar
Oak
Rowan

Latin Name

Acer pseudoplatanus and vars
Betula
Crataegus monogyna
Fagus sylvatica
Populus
Quercus
Sorbus

CONIFERS which are suitable as windbreaks:

Common Name

Leyland Cypress
Larch
Norway Spruce
Austrian Pine
Western Red Cedar
Scot's Pine
Yew

Latin Name

Cupressocyparis Leylandii
Larix
Picea abies and varieties
Pinus nigra
Thuja plicata
Pinus sylvestris
Taxus baccata

In this leaflet and in the garden centre you'll find Hedging is listed under Latin names.

Common Name

Beech
Blackthorn (Sloe)
Cherry Laurel
Firethorn
Hawthorn (Quickthorn)
Holly
Hornbeam
Leyland Cypress
Portugal Laurel
Lavender
Privet
Rose
Western Red Cedar
Yew

Latin Name

Fagus Sylvatica
Prunus Spinosa
Prunus Laurocerasus
Pyracantha
Crataegus Monogyna
Ilex
Carpinus Betulus
Cupressocyparis Leylandii
Prunus Lusitanica
Lavandula
Ligustrum
Rosa
Thuja Plicata
Taxus Baccata

HEDGING VARIETIES

ACER CAMPESTRE – ‘Field Maple’, deciduous, suitable for most soils and situations, for hedges or screens. Green foliage turns yellow in autumn. Hedge height 1.5-4m. Untrimmed height to 8m. Available container grown or bare root.

BERBERIS – Evergreen and deciduous varieties are available. Suitable for most soils and sites and will tolerate shade. All are prickly, and make good animal proof hedges when well-trimmed. Available container grown.

DARWINII – Evergreen. Orange yellow flowers in spring. Hedge height 1.5-2m plant 45cm apart.

STENOPHYLLA – Evergreen. Yellow flowers in spring. Hedge height 1.5-2m plant 45cm apart.

THUNBERGII – Deciduous variety. Yellow flowers in spring. Red berries in autumn. Good autumn colour. Hedge height 1-1.5m plant 45cm apart. Other Thunbergii varieties are also available e.g. Atropurpurea (purple foliage) and Aurea (golden foliage) which can add variety to a hedge, plant at same spacing.

BUXUS SEMPERVIRENS – ‘Box’ Small leaved, slow growing evergreen. Make dense, neat hedges, and are ideal for formal hedging and topiary work. Most soils, in sun or part shade. Height can be kept as low as 60cm, or left untrimmed, up to 3m plant 30-45cm apart.

Suffruticosa – Dwarf form of box. Suitable as edging for herb gardens etc. Plant 15-25cm apart. Hedge height 20-60cm.

CARPINUS BETULUS ‘Hornbeam’ Deciduous, but holds brown autumn leaves through winter. Similar to beech, but tolerates heavy damp soils better. Hedge height 1.5-2.5m Plant 45cm apart. Available bare root.

COTONEASTER – Semi-evergreen shrubs. Most soils and sites. Gives a long season of interest – white flowers in spring, berries in autumn. Available potted. Trim after flowering.

FRANCHETTI – orange-red berries. Arching habit. Hedge height 1.8-2m. Plant 60-90cm apart.

LACTEUS – Red berries. Hedge height 1.8-2.5m. Plant 60-90cm apart.

SIMONSII – Erect variety. Red berries. Hedge height 0.9-1.5m. Plant 35-45cm apart.

CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA – ‘Quickthorn, Hawthorn’. Good as hedging where a thick, prickly boundary is needed. Will grow in most soils and sites. White blossom in spring followed by red berries. Deciduous. Good as an informal hedge, and attractive to birds. Hedge height 1.5m or 3-4m untrimmed. Plant 45cm apart. Available bareroot or potted.

CUPRESSOCYPARIS LEYLANDII – ‘Leyland Cypress’ Evergreen. Fast growing – up to 1m per year, once established. Will grow on most soils, in sun or part shade. Trim twice yearly, June and August. Hedge height 1.8-3m. Untrimmed height 20m. Plant 75-100cm apart. Useful for screening. Available potted.

CASTLEWELLAN – Green/Yellow foliage, brightest in full sun. Trim twice yearly, as for ‘Leylandii’ Hedge height 1.8m, untrimmed height 20m. Plant 75-100cm apart. Available potted.

ESCALLONIA – Evergreen hedge available in many varieties. Needs sunny, sheltered position. Flowers in summer, prune after flowering to encourage a second flush. Hedge height 1.5-1.8m, depending on variety. Available potted, see shrub list for available varieties.

FAGUS SYLVATICA – ‘Beech’. Deciduous, but holds dead leaves well into winter. Fresh green new growth, Russet-brown autumn colour. Avoid heavy damp soil, grow in most other sites. Plant in staggered rows to create a dense hedge. Hedge height 2m or more. Plant 45cm apart. Available potted or bare root in winter.

SYLV. PURPUREA ‘Copper Beech’ - As *Sylvatica*, but with purple foliage. Effective mixed with plain green.

ILEX – ‘Holly’ – Evergreen shrub or tree. Females bear red berries, plant male and female varieties for best crop. Most soils sun or shade. Available potted.

AQUIFOLIUM ‘Common Holly’, ‘English Holly’ - Dark green glossy, spiny leaves. Hedge height 1.5m Trim late summer. Plant 45cm apart.

J.C. VAN TOL – Almost spineless leaves. Self-fertile variety with reliable berry crops. We also have many variegated forms, see our shrub leaflet for details.

LAVANDULA ‘Lavender’ – Evergreen with aromatic grey foliage. Flowers mauve, pink or white depending on variety. Height up to 1m. Spacing 30-40cm apart. Available potted, see shrub list for varieties.

LIGUSTRUM – ‘Privet’. Fast growing evergreen. Sun or shade, on most soils. Trim three times a year. Hedge height 1.5-2.5m. Untrimmed 3-4m Plant 30-45cm apart. Available potted, or bare root in winter.

OVALIFOLIUM – Rounded leaves powerfully fragrant white flowers if left untrimmed.

OVALIFOLIUM AUREUM – ‘Golden Privet’ Bright yellow edged foliage, gives best colour in sunny positions.

LONICERA NITIDA – Evergreen shrub, needs good soil in sun or shade. Best trimmed twice a year. Hedge height 1.2-1.8m. Plant 30cm apart. Small glossy green leaves. Available potted.

NITIDA BAGGESENS GOLD – As ‘nitida’ but with golden foliage. Best colour in a sunny position.

POTENTILLA – Deciduous shrub, makes a good informal flowering hedge. Good soil and a sunny position. Height 60-120cm depending on variety. Many colours available. Plant 45cm apart. Available potted. See shrub leaflet.

PRUNUS – CISTENA - ‘Purple leaf sand cherry’ Deciduous shrub. Small pink flowers before leaves. Most soils, sunny position. Trim July. Hedge height 1-1.5m. Plant 45-60cm apart. Available potted.

CERASIFERA – ‘Myrobalan Plum’ –Deciduous shrub. White flowers in spring. Small edible fruits if left untrimmed. Hedge height 1.5-2.5m Untrimmed 3-4m Plant 45-60cm apart. Available potted or bare root in winter.

LAUROCERASUS – ‘Cherry Laurel’ Evergreen shrub with large green leaves. Average soil in sun or shade. Prune with secateurs in spring or autumn. Hedge height 1.5-2.5m. Untrimmed height 4m. Plant 45-60cm apart. Available potted or rootballed in autumn.

LUSITANICA – ‘Portugal laurel’. White flowers in June. Average soil in sun or shade. Trim spring or autumn. Hedge height 1.5-3m. Plant 45-60cm apart.

CAUTION: LAURELS ARE HARMFUL IF EATEN.

PYRACANTHA – ‘Firethorn’ Evergreen shrub with white flowers in June. Red, orange or yellow berries in autumn, depending on variety. Fast growing needs good soil in sun or shade. Trim in spring and summer. Height 1.5-2m or more. Plant 60cm apart. Available potted, see shrub list for varieties.

ROSA – ‘Roses’ Make good informal hedging, with bold displays of flowers during summer, and on some varieties, attractive hips in autumn. Prune to shape in winter. Needs good soil and sunny position. Height varies according to variety, see our Rose leaflet. Rosa Rugosa is particularly suitable.

ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS - ‘Rosemary’ Evergreen shrub, small blue flowers in summer. Aromatic foliage used in cooking. For a formal hedge, use the variety ‘Miss Jessops upright’ and trim regularly. Needs a sunny sheltered site on good well-drained soil. Hedge height 1-1.5m plant 45-60cm apart. Available potted.

SANTOLINA – ‘Cotton Lavender’ Aromatic evergreen foliage and yellow ‘button’ flowers in summer. Good as a low informal hedge. Prune hard in April to keep neat. Best in well drained sunny position. Height 40-60cm plant 30-40cm apart. Available potted.

CHAMAECYPARIS – Feathery silver leaves. Yellow flowers.

ROSMARINIFOLIA – Rich green thread-like foliage lemon – yellow flowers.

TAXUS BACCATA - ‘Yew’ Evergreen conifer with dense dark green foliage. Excellent for formal hedging. Trim in August. Hedge height 1.2-3m plant 45-60cm apart. Available potted.

THUJA PLICATA – ‘Western Red Cedar’ Evergreen conifer with rich green aromatic foliage. Fast growing. Suitable for average soil in sun or shade. Trim in summer. Hedge height 1.8-3m. Also suitable for screening, untrimmed height 10m. Plant 60-75cm apart. For screens plant 1.5-2m apart.

PLANTS FOR SCREENS

Climbing plants

Roses -	See our Rose leaflet			
Clematis -	See our Clematis leaflet			
Lonicera -	Honeysuckle	See our Climbing plant leaflets		
Jasminum -	Jasmine	“	“	“
Wisteria		“	“	“
Solanum -	Potato Vine	“	“	“

Passiflora -	Passion flower	“	“	“
Actinidia -	Kiwi Fruit	“	“	“
Vitis -	Ornamental grape	“	“	“

Shrubs - See our Shrubs leaflet

Photinia Red Robin
 Cotoneaster, tall growing varieties
 Elaeagnus ebbingei
 Euonymus japonica
 Forsythia
 Griselinia
 Hypericum Hidcote
 Prunus Laurocerasus
 Prunus Laurocerasus ‘Etna’
 Pyracantha
 Symphoricarpus

Fruit Trees & Soft Fruit

Espalier Apples & Pears
 Fan trained Peaches & Nectarines
 Grapes
 Kiwi Fruit - Actinidia chinensis.

Grasses

Bamboos – Fargesia & Phyllostachys

Trees - See our Tree leaflet

Amelanchier
 Cotoneaster Exburiensis
 Cotoneaster Cornubia
 Cotoneaster Wateri ‘Avonbank’
 Cotoneaster Hybridus pendulus
 Eucalyptus niphophila
 Eucalyptus perriniana
 Crataegus

Cordon Apples & Pears
 Ballerina Apples
 Minarette Apples & Pears
 Blackberries and other bramble fruit

Many ornamental shrubs can be combined to create an informal screen, i.e. a screen that does not require clipping.

Please refer to our leaflets on Shrubs, Conifers, Top Fruit, Soft Fruit, Climbers, Clematis and Roses as appropriate. Please ask if you require further information.

NAME	Hedge height (m)	Approx. yearly growth (cm)	Evergreen?	Tolerant of:
Acer Campestre	1.5-4	30-60	No	Wind, shade, chalk
Buxus Sempervivrons	0.6-3	10-15	Yes	Shade, chalk
Carpinus betulus	1.5-2.5	30-60	No	Wind, wet, chalk
Crataegus monogyna	1.5-2.5	45	No	Wind, wet, chalk
Cupressocyparis Leylandii	1.8-3	75-100	Yes	
Fagus Sylvatica	2+	60	No	Chalk
Ilex aquifolium	1.5-3	25-30	Yes	Wind, shade, chalk
Lavandula	0.6-1	15	Yes	Chalk
Ligustrum Ovalifolium	1.5-2.5	30	Yes	Wind, shade, chalk
Lonicera nitida	1.2-1.8	25	Yes	Shade, chalk
Prunus Laurocerasus Rotundifolia	1.5+	30	Yes	Shade, wet
Prunus Lusitanica	1.5-3	25	Yes	Shade, wet, chalk
Pyracantha	1.5-2	30-60	Yes	
Rosa Rugosa	1.2+	30-45	No	Chalk
Rosmarinus officinalis	1-1.5	25	Yes	Chalk
Taxus baccata	1.2-3	15-25	Yes	Wind, chalk
Thuja Plicata	1.8-3	60	Yes	Wet, chalk

This leaflet is available in alternative formats.

Please ask a member of staff or
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JANUARY 2014