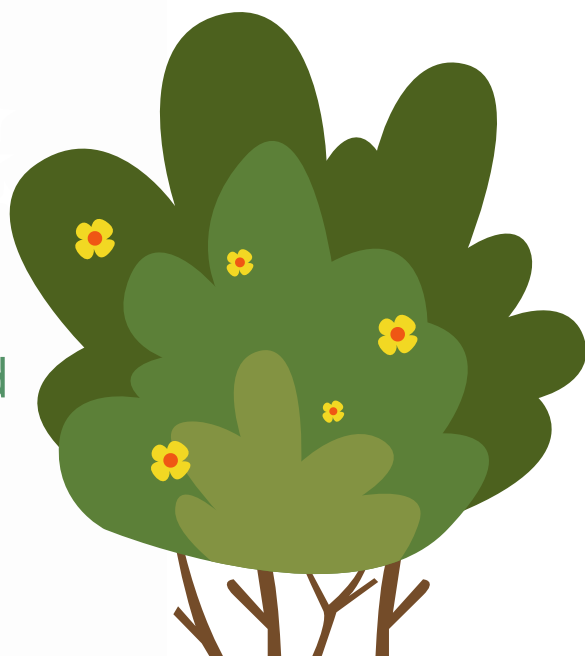


A SIMPLE GUIDE TO HEDGEROWS



WHAT IS A HEDGEROW?

Hedgerows are key parts of our natural landscape in both rural and urban areas. They can be a mix of many different species of shrubs and trees, come in various shapes and sizes, and are often planted on the edges of fields or gardens.



BENEFITS OF HEDGES

There are many reasons to plant native hedgerow. They help to clean our air, capture carbon, and reduce flooding. They bring structure to a garden, provide privacy, and act natural boundaries. Hedges are also vital habitats for local wildlife and are a great way to promote native biodiversity and pollinator life.

Below is our guide for planting some of our favourite hedgerow plants. Check out the Woodland Trust for more resources on how to plant and manage other common species.

NATIVE HEDGE GUIDE

KEY INFO

Plant deciduous hedges between mid-autumn to late winter. Plant evergreen hedges in the autumn. Leave 30-40cm between each plant, and allow at least 1 metre from your boundary line.

Do not plant under existing trees, weed around the planting area, and water the hedges during dry weather. It is essential to trim your hedgerow to encourage dense busy growth, and for long-term maintenance

BLACKTHORN

A deciduous tree that grows best with moist soil and in full sun. Blackthorn is great for biodiversity, attracting butterflies and bees, as well as a food source and habitat for small birds. They make good natural boundaries, but do consider that they are dense & spiky. Blackthorn produces fruit (sloes) in the summer after blossoming in early spring.

HOLLY

An slow growing hardy evergreen tree, holly can grow in most soils and in shade. It's characteristic red berries are great for many types of birds, and it's fallen leaves are fantastic for hibernating hedgehogs & other mammals. As a prickly plant it is also great for security. It blooms from early-mid -spring, but do note that only female holly trees will produce flowers and berries.

BEECH

A fast-growing deciduous tree that can grow in a variety of conditions in both shade and sun. Avoid planting in thin soil levels or in areas that become waterlogged.

Beech is especially good for wildlife, encouraging insect habitats and providing a source of food for squirrels and birds. It's leaves will remain throughout the autumn and into winter.

HAWTHORN

A deciduous plant that can thrive in most soil conditions in direct sun. Hawthorn can grow well in exposed open areas. As well as supporting insects, it's fruit and dense growth is particularly good as a food source and nesting habitat for birds. Hawthorn is know for its pink blossoms in spring and its red berries in the summer. It is important to consider that this hedge will grow to be thorny and dense.

ROWAN

A fast growing deciduous plant, Rowan is well suited to both urban & rural areas, as it can grow in a variety of conditions and in exposed areas. With cream flowers in late spring, followed by crimson berries in late summer, Rowan is a great provider of food and shelter for pollinators, birds, and mammals all year round



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