

Name	Soil Type				Tolerances			Wildlife Value	
	Sandy	Clay	Loam	Chalky	Wet	Exposed	Shade	Pollen/ nectar	Fruit/ seed
Hawthorn	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Black-thorn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oak		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
Ash		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Hazel		✓	✓			✓			✓
Dogwood	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Holly		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Guelder Rose		✓			✓			✓	✓
Dog Rose		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Crab Apple		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Field Maple		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Wych Elm		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓



### Preparing the Ground:

Ideally, if planting on land where a hedge has never existed, the new hedge should be planted into an area relatively free of rank grass and weeds, as these are the biggest competitors with the new plants for light, moisture and nutrients. It is best to do as much advance cleaning of the site as possible, ideally by cutting and rotovating well before planting. If the site is new, a follow up spray of herbicide can be used to control the re-growth.

If replanting an existing hedge, herbicides should not be used, to avoid damage to associated ground flora.

### Species:

Hedges have the greatest value for wildlife if they contain a range of species to provide a wide variety of flowers, berries and leaves for insects, birds and other creatures. The species chosen should be appropriate to the soil type, and should reflect the character of any existing hedges. All plants should be of local provenance where available. See the table on the back page for possible choices in the appropriate locations:

### Suggested planting ratio:

Hawthorn 60–70%

Blackthorn: 10-15%

Other species: 20-30%

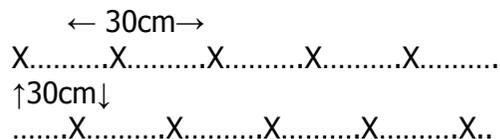
For further information and links to potential sources of grant aid please contact:

### Size of hedge plants:

These should be transplants, 45-60cms high and of uniform size. Do not cut roots to enable the plant to fit in the planting hole

### Number of plants:

6 plants per metre, planted in a double staggered row with 30cm between plants and 30cm between rows.



Hedges to be layed require a slightly greater spacing between plants, please seek further guidance if required.

Plant to the same depth as they were in the nursery. This level should be clearly shown by a soil mark on the stem.

### Timing:

Plant during the winter months, before the end of March. Do not plant into frozen ground.

### Planting method:

The easiest method for planting relatively short lengths of hedge is to use notch planting, or if you have larger root systems by digging a small hole. If using black plastic mulching, the notch can be cut directly through the plastic. Ensure the plants are firm in the soil with no air pockets around the roots, a gentle tug on the stem after planting will check this.

### Hedgerow trees:

Consider planting a proportion of tree species such as ash and oak at irregular spacings along the hedge (one tree every 20-50m). Ash in particular casts a relatively light shade and is an important species for tree sparrows. However, do use species traditional to the area. Trees should be 60-125cm transplants, in 1.2m tree shelters. Both holly and blackthorn are shade tolerant so consider planting these under the hedgerow trees. Mark all hedgerow trees with a coloured tab so that the trees are not trimmed.

### Protection:

Protection from grazing animals, both livestock and wild animals such as deer, rabbits and hare must be considered. Individual tree guards are generally the easiest way though fencing may be an option.

#### Types of guards:

- Spiral – these expand with the growing plant and protect from browsing animals. Available in different colours, clear is generally preferable. Use a cane to support the guards.
- Plastic mesh guards – these can be used where branching is a problem such as with holly.
- Tree Shelters – while protecting the plant these also aid early tree development by providing a sheltered environment, but will restrict lateral growth.

Guards should be removed once the plants are well established, say 3 – 5 years, though caution may be needed where large numbers of rabbits are present. Pruning new hedge plants back to 10-15cm (4" – 6") after the first years growth in the winter is recommended, if you wish to encourage multiple shoot growth and a bushy growth form. However, you may need to carry out rabbit control over the next growing season if rabbits are present.

If protecting from stock or horses, then permanent fencing will be needed. It should be placed 1m from the final width of the hedge, to avoid damage to the hedge even when fully grown, as well as providing a buffer strip against farm operations and an area where associated ground vegetation and wildlife can

### Weed control:

To aid establishment and ensure a high plant survival rate, the new hedge should be kept as weed-free as possible for at least the first 3 years, or until the plants reach 1m in height. Options for weed control include:

- A pre-planting herbicide treatment, followed by post-planting application twice a year once in May and again in July.
- Hand weeding on a regular basis.
- Using an organic mulch – an environmental alternative that suppresses weeds before rotting into the soil. The most common mulch is wood chips but ensure they are well rotted before spreading to minimise nitrogen loss from the soil. You can also use specifically bought mulching material or by using old hay/straw, carpet or cardboard. The mulching material must be well fixed to the ground and sufficiently thick to exclude light to the soil underneath, thereby restricting weed growth. A layer of about 4" deep will be required to be effective. Some light weeding and topping up of the layer will be needed in following years.