

GUIDE TO SELECTING AN INSTANT HEDGE

Species	Foliage and Form	Pruning Maintenance	Annual Growth rate	Most ideal situation	Soil acceptance	Dislikes	Demands	pH	Flowers	Fruits	Leaves
Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Deciduous tree	Once August	Fast 40-60cm	Fresh deep soil, full sun or deep shade	All types but avoid dry soil	Salt and Air pollution	Sun to shade	Acidic to alkaline	Inconspicuous	Beech nuts	Medium green, yellow-orange in autumn. Often remain through winter
Beech Purple/Copper <i>Fagus syl. 'Purpurea'</i>	Deciduous tree	Once August	Fast 40-60cm	Fresh deep soil, full sun or deep shade	All types but avoid dry soil	Salt and Air pollution	Sun to shade	Acidic to alkaline	Inconspicuous	Beech nuts	Greenish red, red-brown in autumn. Often remain through winter
Box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evergreen shrub	Once June-August	Slow 10-15cm	Well drained soil. Likes warmth	All as long as well draining	Salt	Sun to shade	Neutral to Alkaline	Flowers yellow-green pungent smell April-May	Inconspicuous	Dark to blackish green, shiny aromatic
Cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus 'Rotundifolia'</i>	Evergreen shrub	Once July/August	Slow 10-20cm	Nutritious soil that is not too heavy	All except shallow chalk	Sensitive to frost	Sun to shade	Neutral to slightly acidic	White, May to June pungent scent	Black, tart cherries	Thick and leathery. Dark green
Hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Deciduous tree	Once July/August	Moderate 20-40cm	Fresh, soil, deep sandy, humic or clay	All soils that are not poor	Salt	Sun to shade	Neutral to slightly acidic	Yellow catkins in May	Inconspicuous small nutlets	Elliptical, dark green. Yellow-brown in October. Often remain into Spring
Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Evergreen shrub	Once August	Slow	Nutritious, calcareous soil, shady & wind protected	All well drained soils	Heat and draught	Sun to shade	Acidic to alkaline	Small white May/June	Pea size bright red stone fruit. Poisonous September to early spring	Shiny dark green on top, light green underneath. Thorny
Holly variegated <i>Ilex aquifolium 'Silver Queen'</i>	Evergreen shrub	Once August	Slow	Nutritious, calcareous soil, shady & wind protected	All well drained soils	Heat and draught	Sun to shade	Acidic to alkaline	Small white May/June	Pea size bright red stone fruit. Poisonous September to early spring	Shiny dark green with a light yellow margin. Thorny

Native mix <i>Hazel/Field</i> <i>Maple/Hornbeam</i>	Deciduous trees	Once July	Moderate 20-50cm	Fresh soil	All soils that are not poor or too acidic	Salt	Sun to semi-shade	Neutral to slightly acidic	Hazel: Yellow catkins Maple: inconspicuous Hornbeam: Yellow catkins	Hazel: Hazelnuts Maple: inconspicuous Hornbeam: inconspicuous	Hazel: Medium green yellow-orange in autumn Maple: Dark green, bright yellow in the autumn Hornbeam: Dark green yellow-brown autumn
Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	Evergreen conifer	Once August	Slow 10-30cm	Dry to moist soil, High humidity	All except peat	Peat soil	Sun to semi-shade	Slightly acidic to alkaline	Inconspicuous	Red fleshy arils with greenish seed inside	Shiny dark to black green needles, pale green underneath