



Wildlife Needs Hedges!

Hedges form green corridors and provide food and habitat for wildlife. Around half our hedgerows have been lost since 1945.

How to help:



Plant
a hedge

Go
a little
wild



Use
native
plants





What's in a hedge?

Hedges and hedgerows are bushes, shrubs and trees that may line gardens, divide fields, border woods or mark boundaries. Hedges form green corridors for insects, birds and small mammals, to travel, shelter, find food, and make their homes. Bees and bats use hedges to help them navigate. Small birds, and animals, including hedgehogs and voles, use them to hide from predators.



"Hedges connect habitats and provide homes for wildlife. They protect the soil, clean the air and absorb carbon emissions. They are nature's key workers. But around half our hedgerows have been lost since the end of the Second World War - leaving us vulnerable to the threats of climate change and air pollution, while intensifying nature's decline." The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

Many householders have replaced hedges with walls or fences and used paving, decking, artificial grass, pesticides and weedkillers - to try and keep everything neat and tidy. Sadly, this destroys wildlife habitats and poisons invertebrates and insects - removing food supplies for birds, hedgehogs, frogs, bees, butterflies and other creatures.



How we can help:



Plant a hedge, go a little wild!

The best hedges for wildlife are **thick and bushy**, with a variety of flowers and berries from Spring through Winter.

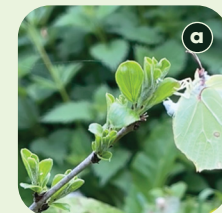
- These can be trimmed lightly after fruiting, maybe leaving some parts to grow and only cut the following year. With an established hedge, let some of it grow a bit wild. Cut back around the end of February, after giving wildlife a chance to eat the fruit through the winter.
- If your hedge looks thin and straggly, gently trim the top, not the sides, to encourage lateral growth.
- Fill any gaps with native hedgerow plants, or plant a new hedge alongside the old, or in front of your fence or wall.

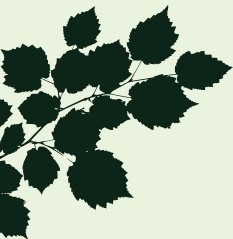
Use Native Plants

Native hedgerow plants are best for wildlife, they include:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Buckthorn (a) | Hawthorn (d) |
| Spindle (b) | Bird Cherry (e) |
| Wild Privet (c) | Dog rose (f) |
| Hazel | Crab Apple |
| Wild Cherry | Wild Pear |
| Dogwood | Hornbeam |
| Plum | Beech |
| Scotch Rose | Yew |

Grow wild flowers along the hedge bottom eg Dog's violet, Knapweed.





Other things you can do:

- Make a small 'hedge wedge' with 3 or 5 plants in a garden corner – every little helps! Keep young plants well-watered for the first couple of years to help them establish.
- If you have a lawn only mow a small area, or replace it with wildflowers.
- Plant climbing plants, such as ivy and honeysuckle, and small shrubs alongside fencing.
- If your garden has been paved and can't be reclaimed, use pots and planters to plant wildflowers and small flowering shrubs.



More information on planting and maintaining native hedgerows and wildflowers is on our website: www.nesstsheffield.org

contact us at info@nesstsheffield.org
or find us on facebook, search for NESST



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