



Bristol's Garden Center
7454 Victor-Pittsford Rd
Victor, NY 14564
(585)924-2274
bristolsgardencenters.com

Guide for Hedging

There are a variety of reasons for creating a hedge. Whether it be for a windbreak or to create privacy, hedges can add functional beauty to any landscape. In general, almost any woody shrub can be used to create a hedge. Understanding proper site preparation and maintenance are important for successfully establishing and maintaining a hedge that will last for many years.

Plant Selection

When selecting plants for a hedge there are many important considerations. See chart on common hedging plants.

- Site Conditions – assess the area where the hedge is to be planted while keeping the following in mind.
 - Exposure – How many hours of sun is there? How much wind will the plants be exposed to?
 - Soil/Moisture – Is it really sandy or dry? Is the area wet in the spring but dry in the summer?
 - Room for growth – Powerlines overhead? Property lines? Walkways?
 - Deer – Is deer browse typically an issue in your area?
- Functionality – what is the reason for the hedge? Privacy? Border? Windbreak? Wildlife habitat?
- Aesthetics – what type of hedge do you want? Deciduous or evergreen? Organized or natural appearance?
- Maintenance – how much maintenance are you willing to do or pay someone to do? Organized hedges require more maintenance.
- Budget – larger plants are more expensive, more plants needed equals more money, and evergreens are often more expensive.
- Growth Rate – faster growing plants will fill in and provide coverage sooner.

Planting and Site Preparation

Once you have chosen the plants that would like to hedge with, it is time to prepare the area. When placing your plants, consider the mature sizing of the plants. This will reduce future maintenance issues. Make sure to remove any existing grass and weeds before planting. Amending the soil with organic compost is always recommended. For proper planting instructions, **please refer to our planting guide.**

Maintenance

Adequate watering is necessary to establish plant material and keep plants healthy the first few years. It is usually easiest to use a soaker hose as it can water multiple plants simultaneously at a healthy flow rate. Additionally, there are many methods for effective weed suppression which is integral for your hedge's success. Mulching around the plants is highly recommended the first few years as it will aid in weed suppression, regulate soil temperature, maintain moisture and add organic matter to the soil. Ask nursery staff for guidance on routine fertilizing.

Pruning

Almost all hedges need some sort of pruning in order to maintain shape and increase density. Natural hedges will need less pruning, but may occasionally require removal of old, dead wood or unfavorable growth. Organized hedges will require more pruning in order to maintain shape and density. Depending on the plant, pruning may not be required as often after a few years. For these types of hedges, commitment to a regular pruning schedule will be the difference between a beautiful, well-maintained hedge and an overgrown one. Occasional thinning of the hedge interior will help maintain the vitality of the plants.



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Plant	Cultivar	Purpose	Height	Width	Sunlight (hours)	Comments	
Deciduous	Forsythia	Lynwood Gold	Border, Decorative	6-9'	6-9'	6+	Flowers bloom on old wood
	Buckeye	Any can serve as a hedge	Border, Decorative	15-20'	15-20'	6+	Large, cone-shaped flowers
	Lilac	Bloomerang	Border, Decorative	4-5'	4-5'	6+	Rebloom again at the end of Summer/early Fall
		Common Varieties	Border, Decorative	8-12'	6-12'	6+	Flower colors range from white to purple
		Miss Kim	Border, Decorative	6-8'	6-8'	6+	Dense branching with purple flowers
	Ninebark	Amber Jubilee	Border, Decorative	5-6'	5-6'	4+	Foliage a mix of yellows, oranges, and greens
		Little Devil	Border, Decorative	3-4'	3-4'	4+	Burgundy foliage, small leaf
		Summer Wine	Border, Decorative	5-6'	5-6'	4+	Dark burgundy foliage, arching branches
	Privet	Any can serve as a hedge	Border	12-15'	8-15'	4+	Very common, old-fashioned hedge plant
	Red Twig Dogwood	Arctic Fire	Border, Decorative	3-5'	3-5'	4+	Red twig winter interest
		Bailey	Border, Decorative	6'	6'	4+	Red twig winter interest
		Cardinal	Border, Decorative	6-9'	8-10'	4+	Red twig winter interest
		Ivory Halo	Border, Decorative	4-6'	4-6'	4+	Leaves are variegated
	Pagoda Dogwood	Any can serve as a hedge	Border, Decorative	15-20'	20-25'	<6	Plate-like flowers attract pollinators in spring
	Rose of Sharon	Any can serve as a hedge	Border, Decorative	5-20'	5-20'	6+	Large flowers adorn these dense hedges
	Spirea	Little Princess	Border, Decorative	3-4'	5-6'	6+	Light pink flowers late spring, green leaves
		Renaissance	Border, Decorative	5-6'	5-6'	6+	White flowers mid spring
Snowmound		Border, Decorative	3-5'	3-5'	6+	White flowers mid spring	
Viburnum	Any can serve as a hedge	Border, Decorative	3-10'	3-10'	4+	Usually adorned with white flowers, excellent fall foliage	
Willow	Dappled	Border	10-15'	6-10'	4+	Mottled green and white leaves, pink new growth	
	Pussy	Border	6-15'	6-15'	4+	Fuzzy, catkins late winter/early spring	
Tartarian Maple	Hot Wings	Border, Decorative	15-20'	10-15'	6+	Non-invasive cultivar with many red seedless pods	



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Evergreen	Arborvitae	Emerald Green	Border	12-15'	3-4'	4+	Very narrow and columnar
		Green Giant	Border	25-30'	8-15'	4+	More deer resistant, fast, vigorous grower
	Blue Holly	Any Royal family varieties	Decorative	8-10'	6-8'	6+	Both male & female needed for berries
		Berrific	Decorative	8-10'	6-8'	6+	Self-pollinating!
		Castle Spire	Decorative	8-12'	3-4'	6+	Female selection
		Castle Wall	Decorative	8-12'	3-4'	6+	Male Selection
	Boxwood	Baby Gem	Decorative	4'	4'	4+	Classic, spherical shape
		Green Mountain	Decorative	3-5'	2-3'	4+	Pyramidal shape
		Green Velvet	Decorative	2'	3'	4+	Classic, spherical shape
		Winter Gem	Decorative	4'	4'	4+	Fast growing relative to other boxwood
	Juniper	Blue Arrow	Border, Decorative	12-15'	2-3'	6+	Tall and narrow with a blue-gray color
		Blue Point	Border, Decorative	8-10'	4-5'	6+	Tall and narrow with a blue-green color
		Moonglow	Border, Decorative	15-20'	6-8'	6+	Silver, blue foliage turning purple in winter
		Sea Green	Border, Decorative	4-6'	6-8'	6+	Arching, horizontal branching with green foliage
		Spartan	Border, Decorative	10-15'	5-6'	6+	Tall and narrow with deep green foliage