

Because they come in all different shapes and sizes, hedges offer a huge range of design options.

The role of hedges in your garden

- · Landscaping element,
- Wind protection and privacy,
- · Slope stabilisation,
- Provide wild fruits,
- · Improved microclimate,
- Shade,
- Provide play materials (branches, wicker sticks, leaves, etc.), hiding places for children.

In terms of biodiversity, it is best to choose native species. Thorn hedges provide a living space and protection for local wildlife. The "Heck vun hei" label guarantees the quality, production, certification and marketing of native hedges and shrubs. Invasive species such as cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) must be avoided at all costs (see also the "Invasive neophytes" information sheet).

Some benefits of native hedges and shrubbery

- · Well adapted to the local climate,
- Stand up well to pruning,
- Easy to maintain,
- Welcoming spot for birds, animals and beneficial insects, attracting life to the garden,
- · Low costs.



Biodiversity at home

The role played by living hedges in biodiversity

- Food and nesting location for birds,
- · Good for insects such as bees and caterpillars,
- Protection for birds and small mammals,
- A place to hibernate.





How to get started?

Natural hedges planted in a staggered pattern, combining many different species, are especially rich in structure and therefore especially valuable.

Although the different growth speeds can make hedge maintenance complicated, generally they only need to be pruned a little to keep them under control. As a result, they are easy to maintain and can be cut back relatively easily, even by novice gardeners.

When choosing varieties, think about your soil conditions and characteristics (dry, damp, acidic soil, etc.). Different species are suited for different functions (privacy and protection from the wind, soil stabilisation, climbing plants, etc.). It is best to avoid toxic species in areas where small children are likely to play.

Apart from your aesthetic preferences and space requirements, you also need to consider whether the hedges you have chosen can withstand pruning.

Size

According to the law on the protection of nature (Article 17), hedges may not be cut between 1 March and 1 October to avoid disturbing birds' breeding and nesting season.

In autumn, leave the berries and fruit: they provide food for the birds. Trimming a hedge along its entire length at once is the ideal method, but spreading hedge trimming over several years is a sensible alternative.





Some alterations and types of work carried out in your home or garden are subject to both civil law regulations (Civil Code) and mandatory reporting requirements and require authorisation! Before starting any work, contact the City's building inspectors: 4796-2544. Ask the Nature and Forest Agency (Administration de la Nature et des Forêts) for information on the degree of protection according to the law on the protection of nature (loi sur la protection de la nature et des ressources naturelles).

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