

HEDGING

A hedge is simply a row of trees or shrubs of the same species grown closely together to form a barrier or boundary or delightful "living wall" of foliage and flowers. In the average modern garden a clipped hedge is invariably a simple and unpretentious green wall boundary, ranging from 90cm to 180cm high.

But with a little imagination much more could be made of it.

- Hedges can be planted to any design - in straight rows, in flowing curves, in circles and geometric patterns in formal landscapes.
 - Hedges compliment topiary
- Hedges can be used for "living fences", for screening, for garden features, for framing, for lining driveways, and for outdoor living areas such as gazebos.
 - The correct varieties can be planted in nearly all conditions.

From the high hedged mazes and the "knot" gardens so popular in Tudor times, through to the hedge lanes of English countryside, and the hardy tea-tree borders so often seen along fences around older Australian homes, hedges have always had a place in the home garden. We now see hedges of all sizes being used in many different landscapes.

They are an excellent alternative to fences providing the right plant is selected. For example, lower hedges are most suited when planted as a border to beds or when used for dividing garden areas.

The art of training and clipping shrubs into ornamental hedges has recently returned to popularity, particularly with the re-introduction of Federation, Heritage, Renaissance and Tuscany gardens. All types of hedges can be created, and with modern power tools much of the hard work has been eliminated. The result is an enjoyable creative hobby that has captured the imagination of a new generation of gardeners.

Waldecks are proud to offer you the "Clipper Collection" of plants which have been specially grown for Western Australian conditions and selected as ideal for hedging and topiary.

PLANTING

When planting hedges check the label for distance between plants.

Dig a hole twice the size of the container your plant is in.

Use a planting mix of 1 part peat, 1 part organic manure, and 1 part of your own garden soil or 1 part Bio-ganic to 1 part soil. A teaspoon of Osmocote slow release fertiliser added to the mix will ensure the plant adequate feeding for the first six months.

SOIL

Most plants will grow satisfactorily in any average, reasonably fertile and well-drained soil. Only when soil is far from average will problems start to occur. Before planting lime-sensitive plants (such as Gardenias and Azaleas) come in for a free Ph test. Should the soil be too alkaline incorporate Peat to balance the soil.

WATERING

The importance of proper watering cannot be stressed highly enough. Water supplies the plant with not only a drink, but a lot of its essential trace elements as well. Without water the plant will die.

Of course here in Western Australia there are many reticulated gardens, and a good watering system installed along the hedge at planting time will ensure all plants receive adequate and regular watering. During summer 15 minutes every second day on an established garden is plenty. With new planting - water morning and night.

FERTILISER

Once a hedge is established, a regular application of a good All Purpose Fertiliser will ensure strong healthy growth. Remember - "a little and often" is better than overfeeding and then nothing.

PRUNING

Shaping a hedge is very important and must start in the early stages while the plant is still young. It's easy. All you have to do to shape and prune your hedge is to clip regularly to keep any wayward growth within bounds. With regular clipping your plants automatically take on a tidy, well-groomed appearance.

SMALL TO MEDIUM HEDGES

Varieties for full sun:

Diospyros lucida

Polished bronzy leaves maturing to rich green.

Lavender dentata

Fragrant bright mauve-blue flowers.

Lavender x allardii

Vigorous larger species with scented purple flowers.

Myrtus communis romana

Glossy green leaves and small white flowers in spring and summer.

Myrsine africana

Compact evergreen shrub with bronze-green foliage. Hardier than traditional English Box .

Rosemary "Beneden Blue"

Fine needle foliage, dark blue flowers.

Rosemary "Frimley"

Pale green narrow leaves, blue flowers.

Rosemary officinalis

Upright growth, pale lilac-blue flowers.

Varieties for part shade:

Lonicera nitida - Box Honeysuckle

Dense small glossy green leathery foliage.

Ligustrum undulatum - Box Leaf Privet

Evergreen with small glossy leaves, and sprays of white flowers.

Murraya exotica - Orange Jessamine

Glossy evergreen with fragrant white blossom followed by red berries.

Gardenia florida

Exotic glistening pure white double flowers in summer, highly perfumed.

Varieties for Shade:

Azalea Kirin

Bronze foliage in winter, masses of small deep-pink flowers autumn to spring.

MEDIUM TO LARGE HEDGES

Eugenia smithii - Lilly Pilly

"Monkey Apple" tree with glossy foliage, bronze new growth, and pink berries.

Photinia "Red Robin"

Brilliant crimson new growth

Plumbago - Blue or White

Semi-climber with masses of blue or white flowers over a long period.

Viburnum tinus "Lauristinus"

Glossy dark green oval leaves with masses of small white fragrant flowers.

FRAGRANT HEDGES

Gardenia florida

Exotic glistening pure white double flowers in summer, highly perfumed.

Lavender dentata

Fragrant bright mauve-blue flowers.

Murraya exotica - Orange Jessamine

Glossy evergreen with fragrant white blossom followed by red berries.

Rosemary "Beneden Blue"

Aromatic fine needle foliage, dark blue flowers.

Rosemary "Frimley"

Pale green narrow leaves, fragrant blue flowers.

Rosemary officinalis

Upright growth, scented pale lilac-blue flowers.

SEASIDE HEDGES

Diospyros lucida

Polished bronzy leaves maturing to rich green.

Lavender dentata

Fragrant bright mauve-blue flowers

Lavender x allardii

Vigorous species with scented purple flowers.

Myrtus communis romana

Glossy green leaves and small white flowers in spring and summer.