



Satinflower
NURSERIES

native plants, seeds & consulting



Designing & Planting Hedgerows

INSTRUCTIONS



WHAT ARE THEY?

Hedgerows are linear groupings planted with shrubs, trees, and sometimes wildflowers, usually beside fields or roads. They provide habitat resources and benefits to land managers.

HOW DO THEY HELP THE BEES?

Hedgerows provide shade, shelter, and food for many beneficial animals like birds. They also provide pollen, nectar, and other resources for pollinators, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

HOW DO THEY HELP ME?

Hedgerows act as wind and visual barriers and as well as provide services such as erosion prevention, drainage control, and of course, pollination. They are essential components of healthy managed lands and can support greater biodiversity.

HOW DO THEY HELP WITH PESTS?

Plants reliant on insect pollination will benefit from hedgerows within managed lands while also providing pest control benefits. A diversity of flowers offers a buffet of food and places to live for beneficial insects, such as lacewings and frogs that eat many pests. Natural pest control reduces the need for insecticides, saving you money and time.



Sea Blush is a great winter groundcover if seeded in the fall.

SITE PREPARATION

A hedgerow often can be installed with little preparation provided the area isn't dominated by aggressive shrubby or woody non-native vegetation (e.g. Himalayan Blackberry). Here are just few options for removing existing undesirable plant material and preparing a site to reduce weeding in the future.



1. SHEET MULCHING

Add a thick layer (sheet) of mulch, 2-6 inches deep. The mulch smothers the grass and weeds below. To further prevent weeds from sprouting as hedgerow plants are establishing, lay down as many as 3 layers cardboard (above) prior to spreading mulch (left). The cardboard will break down slowly into the soil, creating a weed-free barrier.



2. TILL AND MULCH

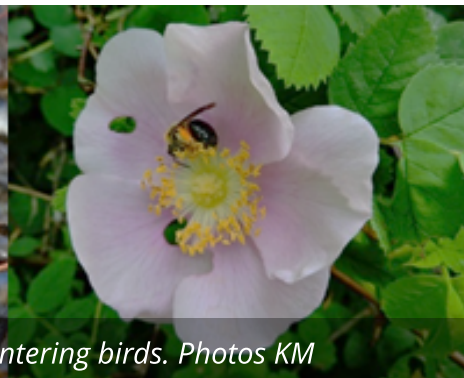
If space allows, till or mow along a fence line prior to spreading a generous layer of mulch to cover all tilled areas. The mulch layer protects soils from erosion and insulates plant roots from intense summer heat. Any weeds that penetrate this layer can be pulled easily.

3. DIRECT PLANTING

One effective, simple way to prepare a site for planting a hedgerow is to just integrate plants directly into the existing turf without any amendments. Dig a hole through the grass, plant the shrub, and only mulch around the shrub or tree. This method is best in areas with few aggressive weedy species and you've chosen vigorous hedgerow species.

4. MECHANICAL SOD REMOVAL

If an area is primarily sod, a sod cutter can sever the roots and is a fairly easy way to create an open planting bed without tilling. The area can then be mulched and planted.



Wild roses attract many pollinators and provide a valuable food source for overwintering birds. Photos KM

WHICH MULCH IS BEST?

The best mulch for hedgerows is shredded leaves and bark, because it is readily available, holds moisture, provides nutrients, and will not erode in rain. Other good choices are clean straw (not hay), bark and wood chips. Avoid using plastic cloth as a weed barrier; it never turns into soil and reduces nesting opportunities for ground-nesting pollinators and other wildlife.

PLANTING

TIMING

The best time to plant is early fall (September to November) or early spring (February to March) when there is still time for the plants to grow roots over winter while the weather is relatively moist and cool before our dry summers.

EXAMPLE TIMELINE:

August	September-October	February-March	July-September
Choose site and prepare if needed	Plant shrubs or trees, mulch heavily	Plant a wildflower strip a few feet away	Water weekly in driest months

PLANTING DENSITY

To achieve good cover in a hedgerow planting, at least one shrub or tree per metre square is recommended. To reduce noise pollution try creating a double hedgerow by planting two or more shrubs in front of each other along the length of the hedgerow. After planting and mulching, avoid any tillage as cultivation brings weed seed to surface.

ADD A WILDFLOWER STRIP

If you would like pollinator activity within the first year, you can plant a row of hardy perennial wildflowers and/or bunch grasses a few feet in front of your hedgerow. Some spacing apart ensures the perennials do not outcompete the slower-growing shrubs as they establish. Some dry/sun perennial species include Canada Goldenrod, Douglas Aster, & Entire-leaved Gumweed.

SAMPLE PLANT LISTS

SUNNY AND DRY TO MESIC		SUNNY AND MESIC TO MOIST	
Yarrow*	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Pearly Everlasting*	<i>Anaphalis margaritcaeae</i>	Black Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>
Great Camas	<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>	Mountain Sneezeweed*	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>
Fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Pacific Crabapple	<i>Malus fusca</i>
Orange Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	Indian Plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>
Entire-leaved Gumweed*	<i>Grindelia stricta</i>	Pacific Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>
Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Clustered Rose	<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>
Tall Oregon-grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>
June Plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosus</i>
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Canada Goldenrod*	<i>Solidago lepida</i>
Red-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Hardhack	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>
Nootka Rose	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Douglas' Aster*	<i>Symphotrichum subspicatum</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>		
PART SHADE AND DRY TO MESIC		PART SHADE AND MESIC TO MOIST	
Great Camas	<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Pacific Crabapple	<i>Malus fusca</i>
Orange Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	Pacific Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>
Hairy Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	Clustered Rose	<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>
June Plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>
Red-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>
Notes: * = Deer Resistant Mesic = medium moisture		Hardhack	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>



Douglas' Aster standing tall amidst shrubs and trees in a hedgerow. Wildflowers added to hedgerows can provide additional resources for wildlife as well as being very attractive. Photo by Kristen Miskelly

MAINTENANCE

PRUNING AND PLANT UPKEEP

Intensive pruning should not be necessary because hedgerows ideally are dense and full to provide ample habitat. If desired, maintenance of a native hedgerow can include cutting back dead material, thinning, and mulching. Avoid cutting back or pruning in spring and summer during bird nesting season. Leave some hollow stems, dead flower heads and fruit, fallen leaves, and other debris. This will provide food for bird, and nesting and overwintering habitat for many bees and other beneficial insects.

WEED CONTROL

Some weeding is inevitable, but by planting shrubs densely in your hedgerow, there will be less weed control required. By mulching around shrub plantings in the fall, in the first few years before shrubs fill in bare areas, weeds will be significantly suppressed. But keep in mind, bare ground or mud benefits many ground-nesting pollinators.

IRRIGATION

Shrubs and trees may require some watering in the first 1-2 years after planting or until their roots are well established. The amount of watering depends on light conditions and species, but typically is not required and only during hot and dry spells. Deep, slow watering is more beneficial than frequent, surficial watering. Early fall is when to plant an unirrigated hedgerow.

DEER PROTECTION

Most native shrubs are susceptible to deer browsing and should be protected with caging or fencing until they are tall enough to withstand browsing pressure. There are deer-resistant hardy shrub-sized perennials that can be used amongst the shrubs.



This hedgerow in California has a wildflower strip with a bunchgrass strip that benefits a greater diversity of pollinators.

Note: plant species seen in this photo are not native to Vancouver Island, but similar local species are available and provide the same benefit.

Photo: Xerces Society



FOR MORE INFO...
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