

Tips for Pollinator Hedgerows

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WHAT IS A HEDGEROW?

Natural Boundary

A hedgerow is a row of trees, shrubs, and sometimes wildflowers which are planted close together and are often used for marking property boundaries. They are usually planted on edges of fields or roads, functioning as a natural fence. Hedgerows also act as buffers, protecting wildlife and pollinator habitat from pollution and sound.

Erosion Control & Drainage

The roots of trees and shrubs function to reduce erosion by stabilizing the ground and slowing water flow across the landscape. This can prevent sediment from running into nearby streams.

Wind Barrier

Hedgerows can protect crops from wind damage by acting as a natural windbreak.

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

Stream Protection

Hedgerows can help filter out pollution and prevent it from going into a nearby stream. This can improve the water quality over time and protect fish and wildlife that live in and use the stream from harmful pollutants.



An established hedgerow that is located next to a stream.

Wildlife Habitat

These structures can provide crucial habitat to local wildlife. Hedgerows with a variety of native plants can allow for a wide range of animals to use the area, as well as provide shelter from harsh weather conditions.



A robin nest which is placed in and protected by established trees.

Support Native Pollinators

Hedgerows with native flowering plants can support beneficial pollinators and other insects by providing year-round foraging sources along with nesting areas and habitat.



Adding flowering plants can help support native pollinators.

SAMPLE NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

Coniferous Trees

Douglas Fir
Hemlock
Red Cedar



Hemlock

Deciduous Trees

Cascara
Oregon Ash
Pacific Crabapple



Cascara

Shrubs

Nootka Rose
Oregon Grape
Snowberry



Oregon Grape

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Water Conservation

Hedgerows can reduce evaporation and hold water in their roots, while also reducing local flood risk.

Carbon Sequestration

When plants photosynthesize, they absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide, helping with climate change. They may also help reduce air pollution.

Invasive Plant Management

Well established hedgerows can protect fields from wind swept seeds of invasive weeds. The seeds can collect in trees and shrubs and should be removed when possible.

Year Round Beauty

With a wide range of native plants, you can select your favorite trees, shrubs, and perennials. Many can even provide seasonal fruit to enjoy!

Pollinator Hedgerows

SITE PREPARATION

Invasive plants must be removed before planting to allow for native plants to establish. Skipping this will result in hedgerow failure.

Methods Include:

- Sheet mulching
- Solarization (tarp over area)
- Mechanical sod removal
- Spray- can mow or till, then spray/ repeat several times. (Can be done in conjunction with other methods above.)



PLANT SELECTION

Consider plant requirements, desired hedgerow benefits, and personal favorite species.

- Choose plants based on site conditions, sun exposure, and soil moisture.
- Native plants will require less maintenance than non-natives.
- Include a range of plants with a variety of texture, color, and size. This allows the hedgerow to be used by a diverse mix of wildlife.
- Bareroot trees and shrubs are easiest to plant on slopes.
- Consider using stakes on steep slopes or near riverbanks.



PLANTING

Group plants with similar soil, water, sun and drainage needs.

- Plant trees and shrubs 6-8 feet apart in 2 rows, 8-10 feet apart
- Bareroot planting can be done in early Spring.
- Container stock can be planted in Spring or Fall.
- When planting bareroots, pack the soil firmly around the roots to prevent air pockets.

LONG TERM CARE

Hedgerows need the most care in the first few years after planting.

- Require continued weed control to prevent native plants from being outcompeted.
- Limiting animal access to your hedgerow is also crucial to prevent damage. You can plant thorny shrubs to help with this.

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