

Hedgerows: Planting

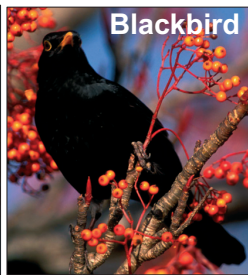
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Why

❖ Hedgerow Flora and Fauna



Guelder Rose



Blackbird



Solitary bee



Pipistrelle bat



Hedgehog

- ❖ Shelter
- ❖ Landscape
- ❖ Flooding regulation
- ❖ Carbon sequestration



Planting

- Cultivation is essential for optimum growth
- Digging in well-rotted FYM encourages growth



- Protect roots from drying out during planting



- Plant to same depth as previously planted
- Firm in

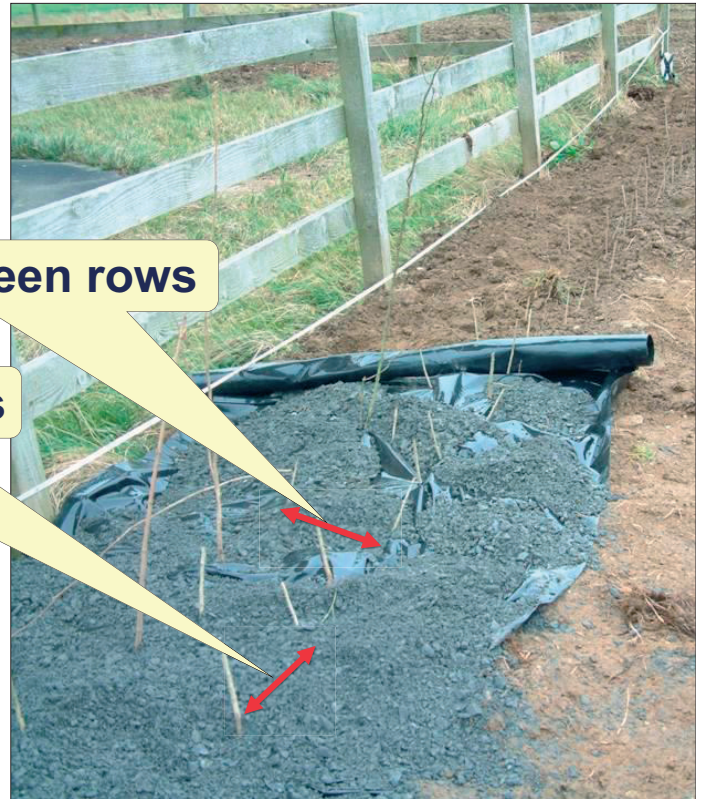


GLAS Specification

- Double staggered row
- 6 plants per metre

330 mm between rows

330 mm between plants



e.g. 1200 plants in 200 metres

GLAS Native Hedgerow Species



Blackthorn



Holly



Whitethorn

- *Purchase plants from registered suppliers.*

Hedgerows: Planting

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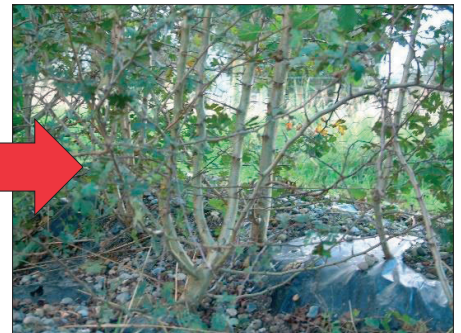
Pruning and Plastic

- Prune whitethorn to 75mm



Pruning produces multiple shoots

- Push 450mm wide strip of used silage pit plastic over pruned shoots



Good weed control allows dense growth at ground level

- Leave occasional whitethorn unpruned - to grow up as individual whitethorn tree to flower and fruit. Put on a tree guard



- Cut hole or slit plastic around holly and future trees

- Press sides of plastic into ground with spade to hold plastic

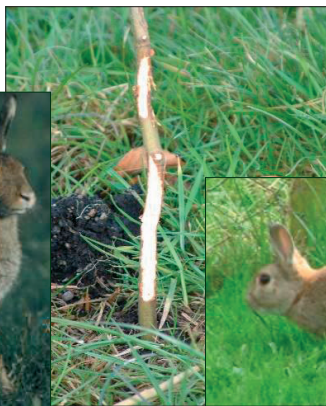


Fencing and ongoing management

- Fence from livestock *until* hedge becomes stockproof
- Fence
 - Stockproof
 - Fit for purpose



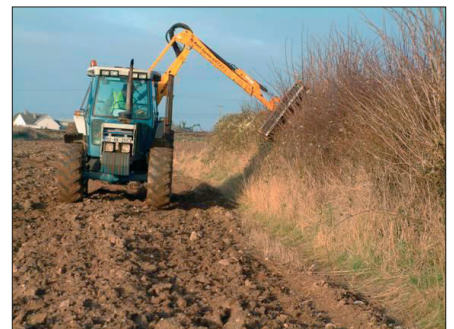
- Protect against hares and rabbits



Low
electric
fencing



- Cut annually for first few years - close above previous cuts



Choose appropriate management for each hedgerow type

Escaped: *suitable* for rejuvenation



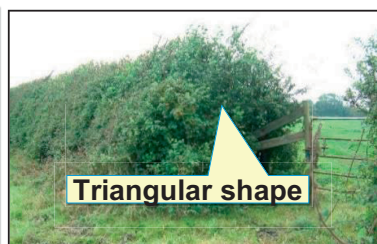
- Rejuvenate by laying or coppicing **or**
- Allow grow into relict hedgerows

No longer stockproof

More than one whitethorn stem / m

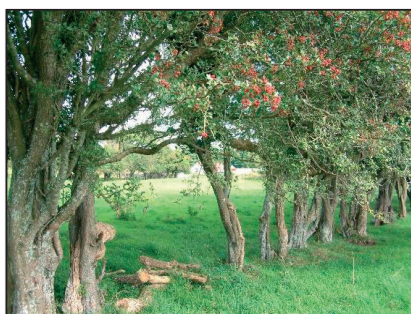
Dense base: *No need* to rejuvenate - *if* stockproof without wire

- Trim from a wide base with sloping sides
- Leave occasional new whitethorn sapling
- to mature as a tree



Relict hedgerows: *unsuitable* for rejuvenation

- Leave alone - high wildlife value
- Rejuvenation may be too stressful for hedge
- Fence off stock from both sides to prevent deterioration by stock tramping through gaps.



Relict hedgerows



Laying



- Make a downward angled cut near to ground level



- Use a billhook, axe or chainsaw

three-quarters through the stem.



- Retain occasional individual thorn trees



- Secure laid hedgerow against wind and livestock
- Must **NOT** use digger to lay hedgerows



Coppicing



➤ Cut stems to below 15cm *close to ground level*

➤ Use a chainsaw or circular saw.

➤ Make a gentle sloping cut to allow water to run off



➤ Retain occasional individual thorn trees

➤ Remove unwanted trees by brushing on glyphosate on cut stumps

➤ Fill in gaps with new plants - 4 per metre



➤ Consider livestock reach and future access for machine trimming, when positioning the fence

➤ Control competing vegetation as necessary



➤ For the first few years after coppicing, cut back to 75mm above previous level of cut, gradually shaping into a triangular shape.

New growth comes from below the cut at ground level



GLAS Specifications

- Coppicing and laying can only take place between 1 September and the 28 February
- Minimum of 10 m in a single continuous length
- Replace plants that die during the next dormant season
- Fence off newly laid or coppiced hedges in a grass or tillage field and protect from livestock
- Trim plants over the course of the contract to ensure a dense hedgerow develops
- Control grass and other competing vegetation

Why?

Remember the purpose of rejuvenation

- To return escaped hedgerows to stockproof hedgerows with a dense base good for wildlife

