



# Growing hedges for a sustainable future

**Signpost Series Webinar  
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# Why?

## Biodiversity plus....

**Carbon**

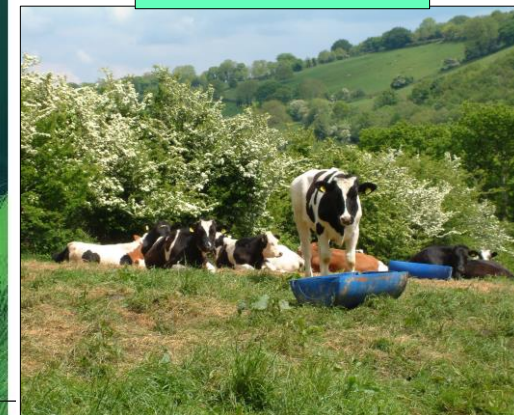
**Food**



**Water**



**Shelter**



### ❖ Birds

- Of 110 birds - 55 use hedges
- 35 to nest

### ❖ Mammals

- Hedgehog, shrew, pine marten

### ❖ Bats

- 9 species

### ❖ Bees

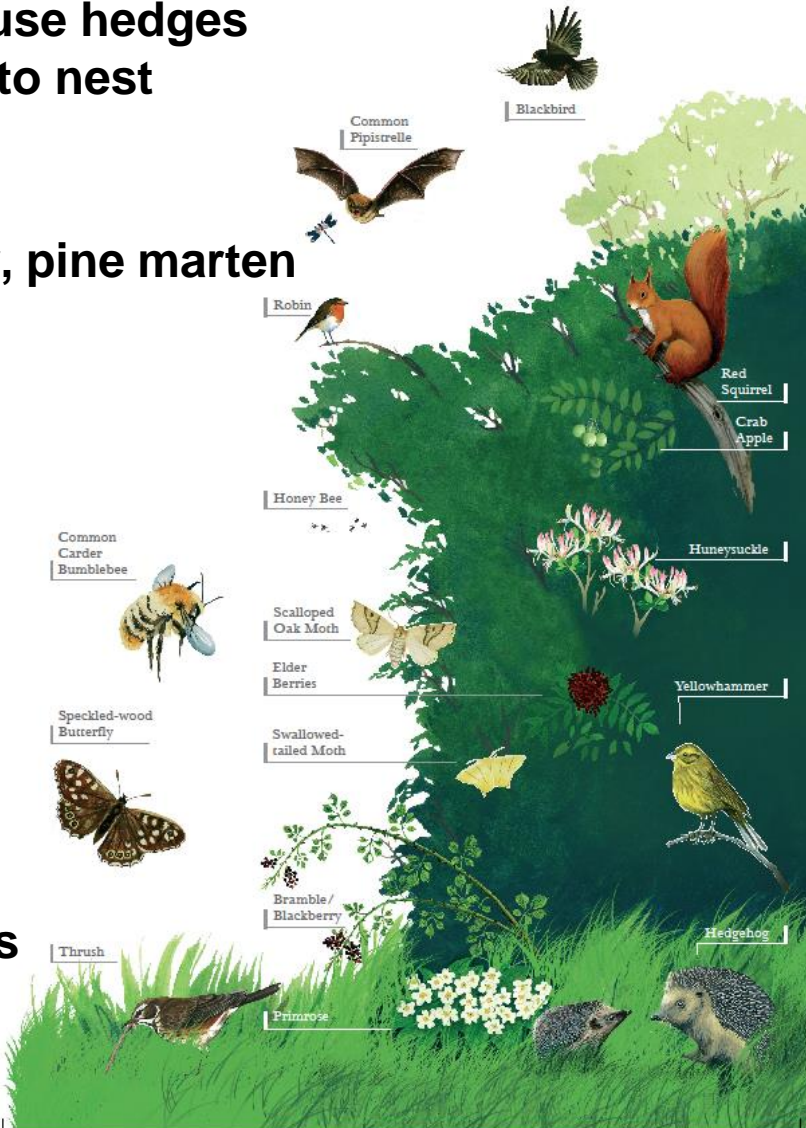
- 77 solitary bees
- 21 bumble bees
- 1 honey bee

### ❖ Moths

- Over 1400 species

### ❖ Butterflies

- 35 species



# What type of hedge do you want?



## Topped

- Traditional hedge
- Dense base

*or*



## Untopped

- Escaped hedge
- Line of trees
- Linear woodland



# Need to understand

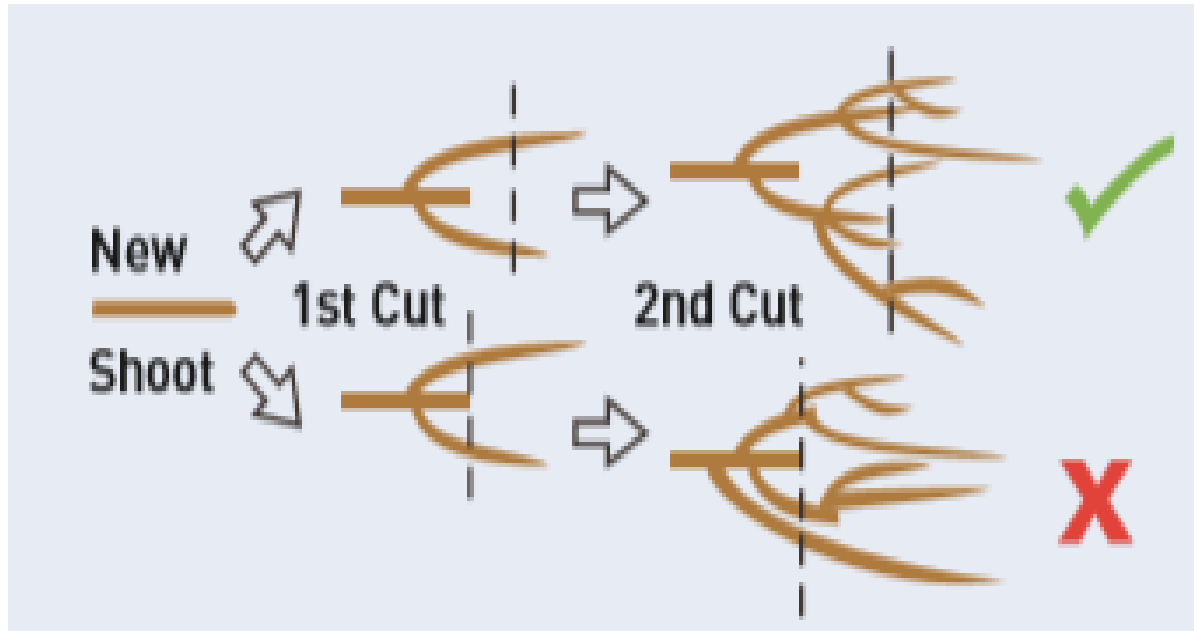
- how trees and shrubs grow
- apical dominance





# When cut:

- new shoots come directly below cut





# Hedging trees / shrubs thrive with cutting OR if left as tree



**Whitethorn**



**Blackthorn**



**Holly**



**Spindle**



**Guelder Rose**



**Hazel**



**Dog  
Rose**



**Woodbine  
Honeysuckle**



# Trees NOT suited to topping



Ash



Oak



Willow / sally



Aspen



Alder



Rowan /  
Mountain Ash



Birch



Cherry



Crab apple



Whitebeam



# Introduced species:



- Not as good to support wildlife
- Not recommended



# Planting





# Pruning and plastic













**Go raibh maith agaibh**