



Fact Sheet

Hedges, Edges & Screens

Hedging plants can range from dwarf edging plants to create desired effects to taller screening plants to provide shelter, windbreaks or create privacy. Some of the popular plants used to provide lower hedges include;

Dwarf Box

Particularly popular for people with a preference for a formal styled garden. Small green leaves, plant 50cm apart, clip regularly, liquid feed.

Lavenders

Grey leaved lavenders have in recent years had an upsurge in popularity. Many new varieties have come onto the market in the last 12 months, such as Pukehou, deep purple, (70cm), Swan River Pink, (75cm), Avonview, pale mauve, (80cm).



Cottage gardens as well as many businesses, hotels, public gardens have used the shorter growing dwarf English varieties, Munstead, blue, (60cm) and Hidcote, dark purple, (60cm) but for hardiness, and effectiveness the taller Allards (1.3m) is the pick of the bunch. Lavenders grow best in a sunny, well drained limey, sandy soil. Plant approximately 70-80cm apart.

Diosmas

Gold diosmas, the landscapers' dream is the most popular garden plant in Australia, used in many situations in gardens but never more effective than when used in massed plantings. Few councils in the country would not have a diosma hedge somewhere within a stones' throw of council chambers. Golden fine foliage all year round with masses of pink flowers from August-November, they will grow in a variety of positions but prefer sunny, well drained spots. The slightly taller dwarf pink diosma is another striking option as a hedging plant. Plant about 80-100cm apart.

Medium height edging plants include:

Eriostemon

Native wax flower, masses of white star shaped flowers, green foliage, fragrant plant that will tolerate shade and somewhat damp soil although prefers well drained. It is an unforgettable sight to see a well grown eriostemon hedge. Plant 1m apart.

Grevillea rosmarinifolia

1.5-2m tough as boots native with slightly prickly foliage and red flowers, benefits from regular clipping. When a fully grown hedge it will be impenetrable yet attractive to look at. Will attract native birds. Grow in sunny spot. Good drainage.

Lonicera nitida

Small box leafed honeysuckle. Grows to about 2m. Keep clipped regularly to maintain density. Quite fast growing, small green foliage (gold is also available). Very tough effective plant. Sunny to part shade.

Taller edging plants include:

Viburnum tinus

White flowers, hardy to 3m, will grow in any conditions unless it is too wet. Very effective screening plant that makes a very attractive hedge.

Pittosporums

Many varieties available, variegated leaf (Eugenoides), smaller leaf (James Stirling), gold leaf (Sunburst), to name a few. Popular hedging plant grown for foliage and will create a marvellous screen when mature. Plant 1.25-1.5m apart in sunny/part shade.

Photinias

Most Tasmanians call them Chinese fire bushes, fast growing popular and effective screening plants, with lovely new red foliage in spring, white flowers.

A plant that nearly everyone knows. Plant 1.5m apart in a sunny position. Water regularly while young.

Cupressocyparis Castlewellen Gold

Fast growing gold foliated conifer that will grow to 5m within years if in the right conditions (sunny, well drained).

Great screening plant that has become very popular. Plant 1.5-1.75m apart.



HINT: Regular light clipping of foliage will increase plant density. Follow up with a liquid feed such as Phostrogen or Miracle Gro.

Other hedging plants include Ceanothus "Blue Pacific", roses, feijoas, sasanqua camellias.

All except roses will benefit by pruning regularly to maintain shape and promote density.

HINT: Many native hedges such as Grevillea and Bottlebrush will also attract native birds to your garden.

