

Hedge Plants

All plants that are listed here have foliage that is from the ground up and thus able to provide a dense separation or screen in your landscape.

There are different categories of hedge plants. Some are knee-high shrublets, mainly used for edging a walk or path or as a formal separation around herb gardens. Others grow waist high and are used for barriers and low screening, under windows and as foundation plantings. At the other extreme are the shrubs that grow as tall as trees and are useful as windbreaks, noise reduction or screening out unsightly objects and objectionable views. In some cases, background plants can double as screening plants as well as be a functional part of your landscape. The best screening plants are the ones that grow impenetrably dense and/or have thorns.

Before choosing the best plant in your particular situation, you have to ask yourself what is the purpose for these plants. Consider some of the following points to help choose the right plant for your specific needs:

- evergreen or deciduous / sun or shade
- what ultimate height is needed
- what is the desired time frame for growth of the screen or hedge
- do you want flowers, fall color or berries
- hardiness rating
- thorns or no thorns
- do you want a more formal (pruned) look or informal (natural or unpruned) look
- low maintenance or high maintenance

Following are some plants that are suitable for edging and small barriers:

Berberis darwinii	X			X	X		X		5-10'
Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa'	X			X		X	X		
Ceanothus - various species	X			X	X		X		
Cotoneaster - various species	X			X	X		X		
Escallonia exoniensis 'Red Elf'	X			X	X		X		
Euonymus japonica - various species	X			X		X	X		
Hebe - various species	X			X		X	X		
Ilex crenata - various species	X			X		X	X		
Lavandula	X			X	X	X	X		
Lonicera nitida 'Red Tip', 'Baggeson's Gold'	X			X		X	X		
Mahonia nervosa, repens	X			X	X	X		X	
Mahonia aquifolium 'Compacta', 'Kings Ransom', 'Charity'	X			X	X	X		X	
Nandina d. 'Gulfstream', 'Moon Bay' & 'Firepower'	X			X	X		X	X	
Osmanthus delevayi & various species	X			X	X	X	X		
Osmanthus heterophyllus, 'Purpureus' & various species	X			X	X	X	X		
Pernettya mucronata	X			X	X		X		

Hedge Plants (continued)

Plants suitable for edging and small barriers:

	broadleaf	coniferous	deciduous	evergreen	flowers	tolerates shearing	sun	shade	size
Pittosporum	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Platycladus orientalis		X		X			X		
Prunus laurocerasus 'Mt. Vernon', 'Otto Luyken'	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Rosmaninus officinalis	X			X	X		X		
Sage	X			X			X		
Santolina chamaecyparissus	X			X	X		X		
Taxus baccata 'Rependans'		X		X		X	X	X	
Taxus cuspidata 'Densiformis'		X		X		X	X	X	
Teuchrium	X			X			X		
Thuja o. 'Little Gem', 'Hetz Midget', 'Little Giant', 'Woodwardii'		X		X		X	X	X	
Vaccinium ovatum	X			X	X			X	
Viburnum davidii	X			X	X		X	X	
Viburnum tinus 'Spring Bouquet'	X			X	X		X	X	

Following are some plants that are suitable for medium to large size barriers / screening:

	broadleaf	coniferous	deciduous	evergreen	flowers	tolerates shearing	sun	shade	size
Abelia grandiflora	X		X		X		X		
Bamboo	X			X			X		
Buxus	X			X		X	X		
Carpinus betulus			X		X		X		
Chaenomeles japonica			X		X		X		
Chamaecyparis (non-dwarf types)		X		X			X	X	
Cupressocyparis leylandii 'Castlewellan'		X		X		X	X		
Cupressus		X		X		X	X		
Elaeagnus angustifolius	X			X		X	X		
Escallonia exoniensis 'Frades'	X			X	X	X	X		
Garrya elliptica	X			X			X		
Juniperus (shrub & columnar types)		X		X		X	X		
Laurus nobilis	X			X		X	X		
Ligustrum j. 'Texanum', 'Vicaryi'	X			X		X	X		
Lonicera nitida 'Silver Edge' & various species	X			X		X	X		
Mahonia aquifolium 'Compacta'	X			X	X		X		
Myrica californica, pennsylvanica	X			X		X	X		
Osmarea burkwoodii	X			X	X	X	X		
Photinia fraseri	X			X		X	X	X	
Pittosporum	X			X	X			X	
Podocarpus (marginally hardy depending on variety)	X			X	X	X		X	
Prunus laurocerasus, lusitanica	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Pyracantha	X			X	X		X		
Rosa (shrub types)			X		X	X	X		
Taxus (shrub & columnar types)		X		X		X	X	X	
Thuja o. 'Smaragd', 'Pyramidalis', 'Nigra', 'Elegantissima' & others		X		X		X	X		
Thuja plicata		X		X			X		
Thujopsis dolobrata		X		X			X		
Tsuga canadensis		X		X		X	X	X	
Viburnum tinus	X			X	X	X	X	X	