

# MAKE SPACE FOR **WILDLIFE**



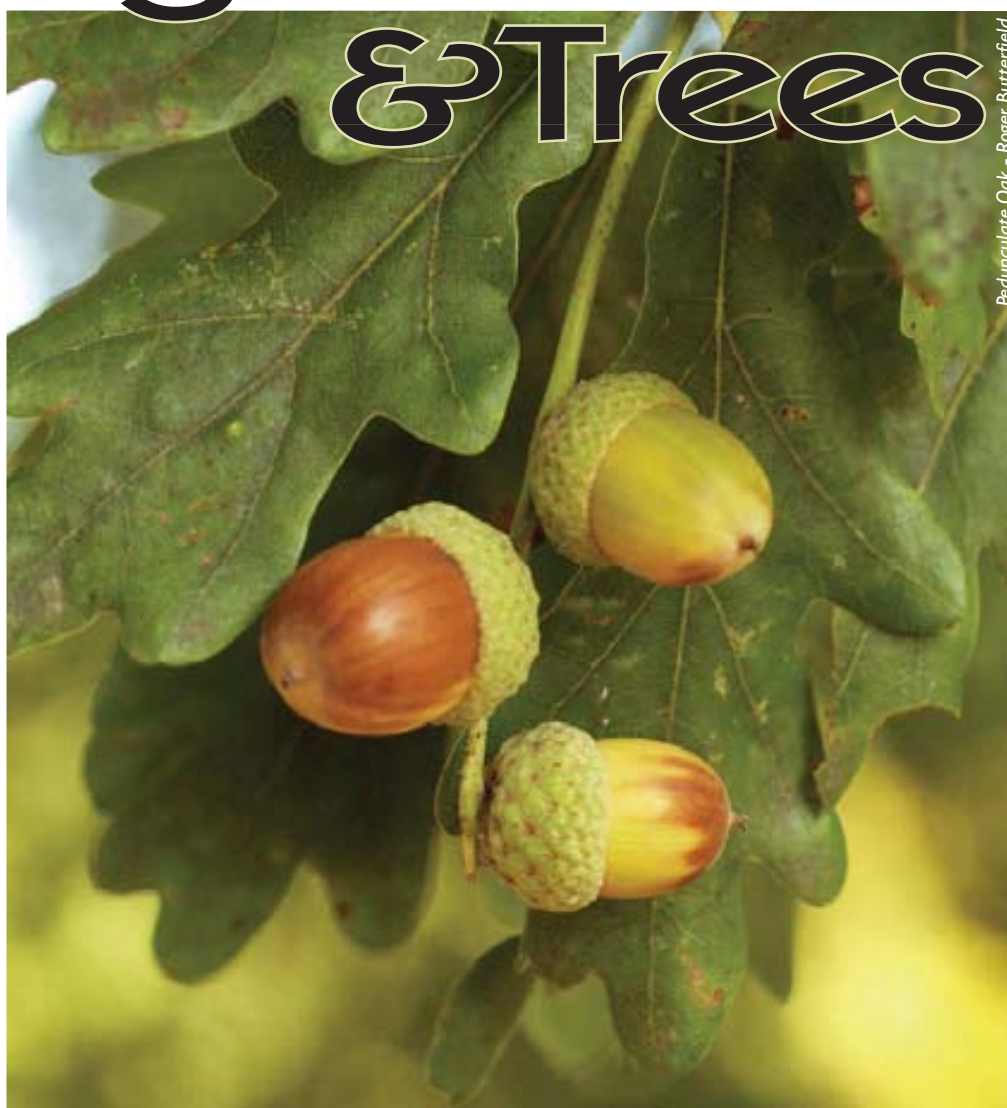
*'Wildlife habitat creation in small open spaces and gardens' – a series of leaflets to help manage, enhance and create areas for wildlife in the Vale of Glamorgan*

Leaflet  
**3**

## Hedgerows & Trees

This leaflet acts as a basic guide to help you create, enhance and manage native hedgerows and establish trees. They can be used instead of a fence or wall as the boundary to your wildlife area or can be established alongside your existing boundary.

Hedgerows and trees are a really important habitat for wildlife; providing food, shelter and nesting sites. Perhaps most importantly they allow animals to move from one area to another in safety; letting them find a new territory, habitat or a mate. The information here will tell you how to establish a new hedge and how to manage it.



Pedunculatae Oak - Roger Butterfield

*It's important to grow local provenance species of the plants suggested here. To make sure you buy the right ones, look for the Latin names in the *Planting For Wildlife* guide.*



Hawthorn - Bill Wakefield



Hawthorn - Peter Birch



## Preparing the ground

The best time of year to establish a hedgerow is between November and March. Mark out the site where your hedge is going to be with rope or canes and remove any grass or weeds that are there.

Your hedgerow can be just one row of plants but to make it even better for wildlife, add another row. Dense hedges are really good, providing lots of cover for wildlife, so whenever possible plant with 40cm gaps along the rows and 30cm between rows.

Buy bare-rooted plants, or root trainers that are around 40-60cm or 60-90cm tall and plant them in a trench around 40cm deep.

You might need to protect your young plants from rabbits with a tree guard or you could build a temporary fence around the whole hedgerow.

*Lots of different animals like to live in hedgerows and trees so make sure you provide some homes for them, such as bee nesting tubes, small mammal boxes and bird and bat boxes.*



For best results, use hawthorn, hazel and spindle planted in two rows.

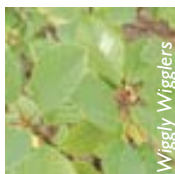


Blackthorn - Peter Birch

**Try planting some willow and training it with wire to grow into an arch or tunnel.**



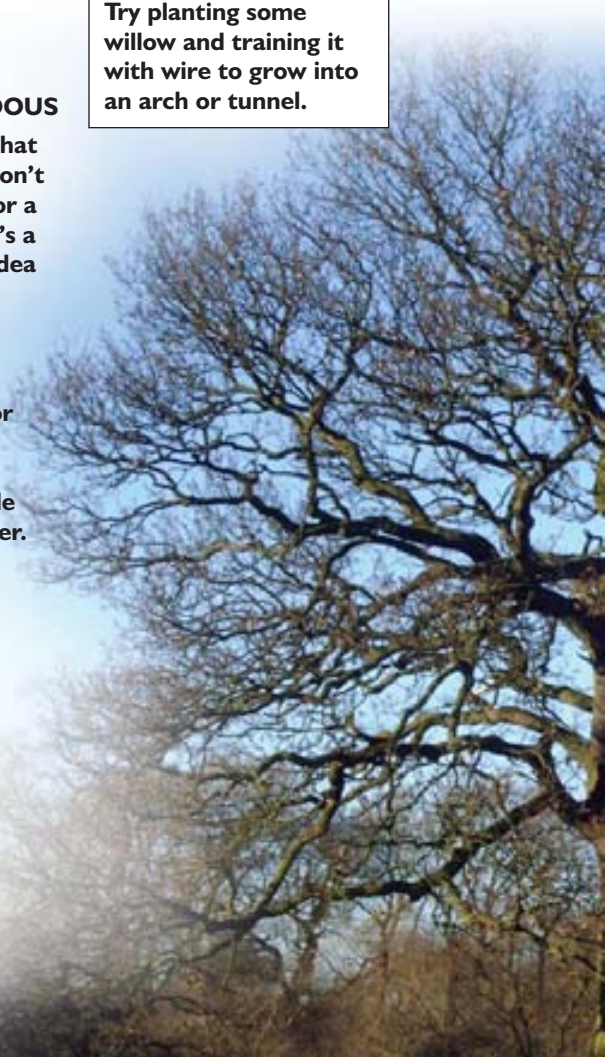
Wiggly Wigglers



Wiggly Wigglers

## TREE-MENDOUS

**Remember that even if you don't have room for a hedgerow, it's a really good idea to establish some taller native trees. Not only are they great for wildlife but they also provide shade in the summer.**



	Deciduous	Evergreen	Prickly	Berries/fruit	Nuts	Flowers
Bird cherry	🍃			🍏		🌸
Blackthorn	🍃		🍃			🌸
Crab apple	🍃			🍏		🌸
Dog rose	🍃		🍃	🍏		🌸
Dogwood	🍃			🍏		🌸
Elder	🍃			🍏		🌸
Field maple	🍃			🍏		
Goat willow	🍃					🌸
Guelder rose	🍃			🍏		
Hawthorn	🍃		🍃			🌸
Hazel	🍃				🍏	
Holly		🍃	🍃	🍏		
Spindle	🍃			🍏		🌸
Wayfaring tree	🍃			🍏		🌸

## Choosing your plants

Before you choose any particular plants you need to decide the kind of hedgerow you want to establish. The best kind of hedge provides a lot for wildlife as well as acting as a boundary. Base your hedgerow around a few key species, such as hawthorn or blackthorn and then mix in some of the others too.

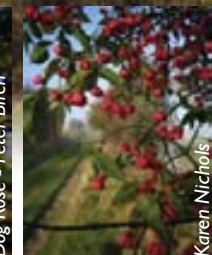
You might want to try 50% of blackthorn and hawthorn along with 50% of the other species from the table above. The more diverse you can make your hedgerows the better – both for the wildlife and the aesthetics – aim for around 6 plants every metre.



Roger Cave



Dog Rose - Peter Birch



Karen Nichols

## Management

It's really important to include some larger trees as well. These provide a completely different habitat and vary the shape and size of the hedge. Native trees are much better than introduced species: they cope better with our weather and

provide more resources for our wildlife. Some good trees to plant include beech, ash, oak, hornbeam, and field maple.

Plant some climbers around the base of your hedgerow after the first couple of years to add even more food for wildlife. Try to include native species such as ivy, honeysuckle, wild clematis and black bryony.

Sow some wildflowers in a margin at the bottom of the hedge to provide extra cover and food for lots of different animals (see *Meadows leaflet*).

Make sure you water the hedgerow well during the first year to give the plants a head start. For the first five years you should also try to control any weeds that grow, as they'll compete with your hedge for water and nutrients. The easiest way to do this is with a layer of mulch (leaf litter or compost) which will also mean you can cut down on watering.

After the first year of growth, trim your hedgerow well: cut it back to around 50cm in height. This will help make the plants really bushy and form dense foliage. After this just occasionally prune it to form a gentle upward slope (like a letter A), letting rain and sunlight get to the base of the hedge.

With time, your hedge will become bushier and taller and provide a better habitat for all kinds of wildlife.

**Don't cut your hedge back between March 1st and August 31st in case of nesting birds.**

Peter Birch

**Make sure you keep a record of the animals you see in your hedge or amongst the trees. It's really important for conservationists to know population levels and distributions.**

### GENERAL TIPS

- Choose a mixture of native species and plant them between November and March.
- Make a hedgerow as dense as you can and establish climbing plants and wildflowers around it. They're really important corridors to help wildlife move from area to area.
- Provide nesting boxes and shelters for the many animals which live in hedges and trees.

These leaflets are produced by

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visit our website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)



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**Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)**

Government's adviser on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and outdoor enjoyment in Wales. The national wildlife conservation authority.  
Tel: 02920 772400

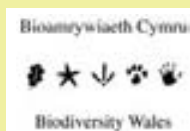


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**Woodland Trust**

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