



TIP No. 6 – IN PRAISE OF THE LIVING HEDGE

Things to consider when choosing a hedge.

1. Function. – Why might you want a hedge?
 - As a wind-break
 - For privacy or security
 - As a backdrop to an herbaceous border and shrubs
 - To attract wildlife
 - To subdivide the garden into rooms
 - To make a feature of a particular area for example enclosing a bench

2. Form - Make a shortlist of the possible plants?
 - What type of soil do you have? Is it clay or sandy?
 - What is the drainage like? Yew for example doesn't like sitting in water.
 - What height do you want it?
 - Do you want it to be evergreen or not? Should it be a native hedge
 - How fast do you want it to grow?
 - What colour do you want to introduce into the space?
 - How permeable or dense do you want it?
 - Would you benefit from a 'stilt hedge' (One which is made up of a row of trees)

3. Cost and Source it?
 - What is the length of the run?
 - How many do you need to plant per metre? Is it single or double planted?
 - Consider whether it can be planted bare root or root ball? (If so, you might have to wait till next winter/spring)
 - Do you want an instant effect – if so look at mature hedging suppliers.

4. Finally Plant & maintain it.
 - Make sure you can take delivery and offload the plants and heel them in till you are ready to plant. I.e. don't get it delivered too soon.
 - Find the right person to plant it or if you are doing it yourself make sure you get advice on the right things to do.
 - Make sure you have the right tools for the job! A good spade and set of hedge trimmers or better still employ someone to do it for you!
 - Enjoy it and take photos regularly – it's amazing how quickly it will grow.

If you need help answering these questions then do contact me.

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