

Planting a Native Hedgerow or Woodland

Time of Year

October - February.

Aim

To plant a native hedgerow.

Cross Curriculum Relevance

SESE:	Living things, environmental awareness and care, exploring/research, local studies and heritage.
Languages:	New words, spelling, writings, literacy.
Art:	Displays, signs.
SPHE:	Myself & the wider world, active and responsible citizenship.
PE:	Physical activity.
Informal Curriculum:	Green Schools Programme, Discover Primary Science.



1

Resources needed

Mixture of native hedge plants or trees, well-rotted manure or peat free compost, black plastic/cardboard, shovels, trowels, spades, forks, gloves, bark mulch/straw/grass clippings, secateurs, flour/ bamboo sticks.



2

Native Hedge Plants and Trees

- Hawthorn • Blackthorn • Elder • Hazel,
- Spindle • Holly • Dog Rose • Rowan • Ash
- Flowering Cherry • Bird Cherry • Crab Apple
- Alder • Oak • Birch

Note: bare-rooted trees can only be planted in the November to later February. Potted tree can be planted all year round.

3

Planting a hedgerow

- Decide where the hedge is to be planted (usually along a school grounds boundary) and source native hedgerow plants.
- Mark spots 300mm apart in the row using flour or bamboo sticks. Double rows may be needed or even triple rows if your site is very exposed to the wind. If you are planting more than one row, stagger the plants as in the diagram:



- Dig holes approximately 250mm deep.
- Add a trowel full of compost or manure.

- Place plant into hole; you may have to clip the roots using secateurs but only if they are too big to fit in the hole.
- Put soil back in around roots and press down with feet.
- Mulch the hedge with a strip of black plastic 1m wide or cardboard.
- Weigh down the plastic/cardboard with bark mulch/grass clippings/straw.
- Clip plants to 300mm high to encourage root development and new growth but leave a plant unclipped roughly every 4m to become a standard.



Planting a Native Hedgerow or Woodland contd.

Health & Safety

Always use tools safely. Wash hands after garden session. Please refer to the worksheet on Health & Safety for detailed information.

4 Planting a tree or woodland

- Decide where the tree or woodland is to be planted and source native trees.
- Mark spots roughly 1-2m apart using flour or bamboo sticks. If making a woodland, plant the trees quite densely to encourage tall trees.
- Dig holes approximately 350mm deep.
- Add a trowel full of compost or manure.
- Place tree into hole; you may have to clip the roots using secateurs but only if they are too big to fit in the hole.
- Put soil back in around roots and press down with feet.
- Mulch the trees individually with 1m² of black plastic or cardboard 1m².
- Weigh down the plastic/cardboard with bark mulch/grass clippings /straw. Use a spade to dig in the edges of the plastic to hold in place.

5 Ideas for Research projects

- Maths** – Measure growth of trees over 1 year.
- SESE** – Keep a check on how many insects and birds are seen in the new woodland or hedgerow; compare and contrast over time.
- Local Heritage** – Are there any specific native trees in your area? Are there any special trees or ancient woodlands locally?
- Art/Communications** – Make a display for the garden or green schools notice board of planting the hedgerow or woodland.
- Woodwork** – What can trees be used for?

6 Where to go for more information

The internet/ the library

Local Heritage officer & Environmental Officer

Our Trees

– A Guide to Growing Ireland's Native Trees in Celebration of a New Millennium, ISBN 0-9518612-5-5 available from Tree Council of Ireland www.treecouncil.ie

CRANN www.crann.ie

Sourcing Native Trees

Coillte www.coillte.ie

Centre for Environmental Living and Training

www.celtnet.org

Future Forests www.futureforests.net