

## Hedging Care Advice

### Weeds

In order for your hedging plants to flourish they need plenty of space, moisture and light. You should take care to prevent weeds and grass from encroaching on your new plants. Ideally, weed the area by hand – make sure to wear protective gloves.

### Water & Feeding

An essential part of our recommended aftercare is watering. Newly developing plants need to be drenched during the first year, ensuring that water reaches their roots. Even in winter, when most plants are dormant, there can be dry spells, so plants need a generous soaking.

**Tip:** Hedging also benefits from being fed - although very few people do this. You can use bonemeal or a similar slow-release fertiliser (bonemeal is the most inexpensive!) and just sprinkle along both sides of the hedge, close to the plants but not touching leaves or stems - then fork in a bit and water in well. Read the instructions on the pack carefully.

For an approximate watering guide, use the following:

5 Litres of water per metre of hedging, at least twice a week. During warm or dry periods, you should increase the frequency of watering.

A cost-effective way to water your plants, with minimal effort, is to install a leaky hose irrigation system. This porous pipe sits on the surface of the soil, releasing water down into the ground, ensuring your plants receive ample moisture.

Always remember to water in the evening, or when cloudy, to prevent the water from evaporating off the surface of the soil.

### Frost

During harsh winters, frost can cause the soil around your plants to break up, creating gaps in the surface. If this occurs, make sure to firm your plants back into the ground. If you live in an area susceptible to cold winters, Mypex is a great option, as it also helps to increase the soil temperature and aid in fighting off frost.

### Wind

It is also important to keep a close eye on your plants during windy periods. Strong winds can 'rock' plants, causing air pockets and allowing frost to creep in. If this occurs, make sure to firm your plants back into position.

### Pruning

Hornbeam hedging requires a trim once a year, in mid-late summer to encourage lasting winter foliage cover.