



# home grown - community owned information sheet



## planting whips and hedges

### How to plant whips

- In order to plant your tree you will need: a spade, a rabbit guard, a stake and some mulch.
- Make sure the roots of the tree do not dry out. If it needs to be stored for a couple of days it can be left in the plastic bag in a cool place. If you need to store it for longer you should heel it in by covering the roots with soil.
- Dig a hole large enough for the roots to spread out evenly. (About 1/3 bigger than the size of the roots.)
- Backfill with soil, gently shake the tree up and down to work the soil around the roots firm around the tree in stages by treading with the heel.
- Firmly push the stake into the ground next to the base of the tree. Starting from the bottom of the tree wrap the guard around the tree and cane making sure there are no gaps in the guard.
- Finish off with plenty of mulch to limit the weed growth at the base of the tree. This is very important as grass inhibits tree growth substantially in the first few years.



### Hedge Planting

You would plant the whips for a hedge in the same way as you would for any other whip but the spacing is important. It is normal to plant a double row with 4 plants per metre (yard). You should leave a gap of 50 cm (18") between the trees in the same row and 40-45 cm (16") between the two parallel rows in a zigzag as shown above. If there is only room for one row, plant 30 cm (12") apart.

### Selecting a natural mixed hedge

Natural mixed hedges are mainly made up of Hawthorn and a selection from the following 12 species.

- Alder buckthorn/*Rhamnus frangula*
- Field Maple/*Acer campestre*
- Blackthorn/*Prunus spinosa*
- Guelder Rose/*Viburnum opulus*
- Crab apple/*Malus sylvestris*
- Hazel/*Corylus avellana*
- Common dogwood/*Cornus sanguinea*
- Spindle/*Euonymus europaeus*
- Elder/*Sambucus nigra*
- Wayfaring tree/*Viburnum lantana*
- Goat willow/*Salix caprea*
- Wild Privet/*Ligustrum vulgare*



*With thanks to Chew Valley Trees:  
[www.chewvalleytrees.co.uk](http://www.chewvalleytrees.co.uk)*

