

Managing hedgerows for wildlife and pollinators:

Cut between November and January to have disruption to pollinators. Try not to cut every year.

See <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Pollinator-How-to-Guide-3-FINAL-1.pdf> for best practice methods of managing hedgerows for pollinators.

Best practice methods of filling gaps in hedgerows:

Many hedgerows have gaps due to years of being untended and undermanaged. There are a number of ways of filling these gaps:

a) New native Irish hedgerow trees can be planted. This is an expensive approach however and does not conserve the genetic provenance of the existing hedgerow trees. If this approach is used then only native Irish species should be used. Examples of some native Irish hedgerow trees are on the next page. See the following links for lists of native Irish trees and information on each:

[conserving enhancing wildlife guide 2005 480kb.pdf \(heritagecouncil.ie\)](#) and [Pollinator-friendly-planting-code-temporary-draft.pdf \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](#)

- b) Coppicing. This involves cutting the trees down to a stump so they can regenerate. It does not fill gaps but it creates space in which new trees can be planted, as well as regenerating the old trees.
- c) Hedge laying: This is a traditional method of hedge regeneration and should be done here, at least in places. It involves a deep cut in the base of the trunk and then bending the trunk over, thus encouraging new growth up and out of this bent trunk. This could be done as an educational workshop, perhaps inviting other Tidy Towns groups to watch and learn about this practice. Contractors can be hired to 'lay' a hedgerow. See <https://hedgelaying.ie/> for The Hedge Laying Association of Ireland information and a list of contractors.

Please see <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/environment/how-to-coppice-a-hedge-.php> for further information on hedge coppicing and hedge laying in Ireland.



a: A hedge that has been recently 'laid'
(Photos courtesy F. Wilson.)



b: The same hedge that has regenerated

Appendix: Some ideas for sensitive hedgerow management

Some suitable low to medium sized native hedgerow trees

Common Name	Latin Name	Height (m)	Deciduous	Flower Colour	Flower Season	Berry Colour	Berry Season	Foliage Colour Autumn	FS/PS	Note
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	9	Yes	White	Late Spring	Red	Autumn		FS	
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	4	Yes	White	Early Spring	Blue/Black	Autumn		FS	
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	6	Yes	Cream	Summer	Purple	Autumn	Yellow	FS/PS	
Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	6	Yes	Yellow	Spring			Yellow	FS	
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	6	Yes	Yellow	Spring	Brown	Autumn	Yellow/Green	FS/PS	
Alder										
Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	4	Yes	Yellow	Spring	Black	Autumn	Yellow/Green	FS/PS	
Burnet Rose	<i>Rosa spinosissima</i>	1	Yes	White	Summer	Black	Autumn		FS/PS	
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	4	Semi evergreen	Cream	Summer	Black	Autumn		FS/PS	Limestone soil
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	4	Evergreen	Yellow	Summer	Blue/Black	Autumn		FS/PS	Limestone soil

FS: Full Sun

PS: Partial Sun

Resource on the Pollinators.ie website advising how to manage hedgerows for maximum pollinator (and other wildlife) potential. This is available at <https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/How-to-guide-Hedgerows-2018-WEB.pdf>

Other excellent native Irish and wildlife friendly tree information at:

[conserving_enhancing_wildlife_guide_2005_480kb.pdf \(heritagecouncil.ie\)](#)