



3rd November 2025

British Garden Centres' guide to planting cell grown & bareroot hedging

Autumn is the perfect time to plant a hedge, especially for anyone new to gardening. At this time of year, cell grown and bareroot hedging plants are dormant, which helps their roots settle easily into the soil without stress. This prepares them to grow strong and healthy as spring arrives. The team at British Garden Centres has put together a guide for cell grown and bareroot hedging that will give you a chance to create a healthy, natural garden border that provides privacy and helps wildlife

Which cell grown and bareroot hedging plants to choose?

There are a wide variety of hedging plants ideal for beginners and experienced gardeners. These include both deciduous and evergreen types, chosen for their hardiness, wildlife value, and garden appeal.

Among the deciduous varieties that drop their leaves, **Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)** is a fast-growing tree with lovely yellow leaves in autumn, whilst **Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)** grows quickly, creating a dense leafy screen suitable for many garden settings. **Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)** is admired for its silvery-white bark and delicate leaves that move softly in the wind, adding year-round charm.

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) makes a dense, formal hedge, holding its yellow leaves late into winter, providing privacy and shelter for wildlife when many other plants have lost their foliage. **Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)** grows fast and produces soft catkins in winter, followed by tasty hazelnuts in late summer, offering food for both you and wildlife.

One of the most well-known is **Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)**, which is a staple of British hedges, notable for its fragrant white flowers in spring and bright red berries in autumn that attract many bird species. **Green Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)** holds onto its coppery leaves in winter, ensuring your garden has colour and structure year-round, whilst **Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)** offers dense, thorny protection, with attractive white flowers and blue berries that make excellent wildlife habitat.

For a splash of colour, **Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)** grows quickly and gives fragrant, creamy white flowers and clusters of purple berries. Larger gardens are perfect for **Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*)**, a majestic tree that supports a wealth of insects and birds.

For those interested in evergreen hedging, we also offer these plants in containers **Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)** is a fast-growing plant that provides year-round privacy and is easy to shape. **Cotoneaster** is another evergreen option, known for its dense foliage and bright berries favoured by birds. **Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*)**



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offers semi-evergreen coverage with scented summer flowers. The slow-growing **Yew (*Taxus baccata*)** can be pruned into formal shapes, offering dense, dark green foliage throughout the year.

When is the best time to cell grown & plant bareroot hedging in the UK?

The best planting window for cell grown and bareroot plants in the UK is during their dormant period, usually between November and March or early April. Planting during these cooler months helps roots establish while the plants rest, avoiding stress from leaf or flower production.

How to plant?

Loosen the soil to enable roots to grow more easily and enrich the soil with organic matter such as compost or well-rotted manure, particularly in poor or compacted soils. Keep the plant roots moist but not waterlogged until planting time. Soak the roots in water for an hour before planting to rehydrate them fully.

Dig a trench wide and deep enough so that roots lie naturally without curling or bending. Depending on how dense you want your hedge to be, position the plants so that you are planting around 5 plants per meter. Place each plant into the trench, spreading out the roots, then fill with soil slowly, firming gently to remove air pockets but without compacting the soil too hard.

How to care for your cell grown and bare root hedge?

Keep watering regularly during the first year, especially during dry periods, including autumn and winter when dry weather is less common but still possible. Removing weeds early and often helps the young plants receive more water and nutrients. Each late winter or early spring, cut back the new shoots by about a third to encourage bushier growth and increase hedge density. Trim side shoots to maintain form and thickness.

Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres, said: “Planting cell grown and bareroot hedging now is one of the best ways to establish a strong, long-lasting garden boundary. With British Garden Centres’ wide selection of native and evergreen species and expert advice, beginners can get started confidently and enjoy the rewards of a flourishing hedge year after year.”

ENDS:

WORD COUNT: 753

Notes to Editors: British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK’s largest family-owned garden centre group, with 73 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by the Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.



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BGC was launched in 1990 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre, funded by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018, it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now, with 73 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham. The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, three growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres and Woodthorpe Leisure Park and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

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