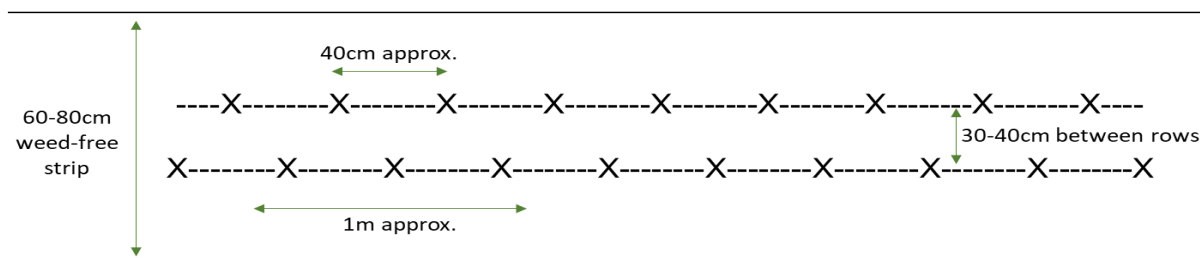


# Bare Root Hedge Planting

Late November to late March

**1. Soil & Site Preparation.** The soil should be free from grass/turf and weeds. In October clear the ground of vegetation and roots, using an authorised herbicide or any other efficient means of clearing the weed/grasses growth.

**2. Planting Density, Mulch & Water.** New hedges are typically planted in the centre of a weed free strip 60-80cm wide at a density of 5-6 plants per metre. This allows for 2 rows with plants staggered. Each row 30cm (12") apart and plants spaced at 40cm (16ins) along each row.



Keep the soil weed free in the first 2 years. Mulch around the plants with bark or any composted vegetation, or plant through weed suppressant woven polypropylene mat rolls. Water plants during the first spring and summer during extended dry periods.

### **3. Protection from Rabbit & Deer** (<https://www.ewburrownursery.co.uk/planting-accessories>)

Bare root hedge plants are vulnerable to rabbit and deer damage, particularly in rural areas. For protection from rabbits, spiral guards should be used with canes to support them. Alternatively, fence off both sides of the hedge with rabbit wire, ensuring the base of the wire is firmly buried in the soil. Deer fencing generally needs to be 1.8m high, speak to us about options for cheap temporary fencing.

**4. Storing the plants.** The plants can be kept in the bags they were supplied in for up to 1 week, as long as they are in a frost free and unheated location, and provided that the roots are kept moist but not sitting in water. Beyond 10 days "heel-in" the plants by digging a small trench, removing the plants from the bags keeping them in their bundles, cover the roots with moist soil and firm gently. They must be in their final planting position by the end of March.

**5. Care when planting.** Avoid planting when the soil is saturated or frozen. Check the roots are moist coat with Rootgrow or dip in water just prior to planting. Leave the plants in the bag, taking them out only as you plant them. Dig a hole or slot to fit each root system. Ensure the plants are planted at the same depth they were previously, look for the field line just above the root system. When planting we highly recommend the use of Rootgrow to help reduce mortality (see our separate information sheet).

With bare root planting a normal failure rate is 5-10%, particularly on difficult sites or inclement weather conditions.

For more information, please contact us, or see our downloadable advice sheets at

(<https://www.ewburrownursery.co.uk/downloadable-advice-sheets>)