



blerick tree farm

[www.dialatree.com.au](http://www.dialatree.com.au)

55 McDougal Road Neerim South 3831

Ph: (03) 56 281507 mbl:0417 535 917

E: [admin@blerick.com.au](mailto:admin@blerick.com.au) web [www.dialatree.com.au](http://www.dialatree.com.au)

## Screening and Hedging Plants Guide

A hedge is far more than a row of plants in a line. A well-planned hedge can:

- -block wind or dust,
- -provide privacy,
- -screen an unattractive view or
- -create a living fence or wall.

A hedge can be formal or informal. Plants can be selected from species that have coloured foliage, flowers, berries or fruit. Whatever the purpose of your hedge, think about its' eventual height and access for trimming.

The best hedge plants should be ideally suited to your site (ie climate, soil, sun, shade, frost). Hedging plants should be leafy and dense to the ground, even when mature. Plants should be hardy to competition from weeds and drought. Plants that have a moderate growth rate will need to be trimmed less than plants that have a vigorous growth rate. See [www.dialatree.com.au/hedgesandscreens](http://www.dialatree.com.au/hedgesandscreens) for recommendations for hedging and screening plants.

### TEN STEPS TO A BETTER HEDGE

**Step 1.** Clear the area. Clear competing vegetation by using a herbicide (eg Roundup) or mechanically.

**Step 2.** Prepare the soil. Cultivate a 1m wide strip using a rotary hoe or fork, spaced to a 35cm depth. Dig in well-rotted compost and manure.

**Step 3.** Set up a string-line with stakes at either end, mark accurate spacings. See further on for advice on appropriate spacing.

**Step 4.** Dig planting holes, about double the size of the root-ball.

**Step 5.** Add a slow-release fertilizer (Agriform tablets are ideal) to each hole.

**Step 6.** Gently remove plants from the containers, position into hole. Check spacing, then backfill. Soil level should be the same as when the plant was in the pot

**Step 7.** Firm soil around the root-ball with the ball (not the heel) of your foot. Check that soil level is at the same level as when the plant was in the pot

**Step 8.** Water well, making sure the water goes deep into the soil.

**Step 9.** Add mulch. Keep it away from the trunk (about a hand's span) to avoid fungal problems.

**Step 10.** Trim. Clipping the top shoots encourages your new hedge to grow thick and strong.

**Note:** hedges require more frequent food and water due to close spacing