

A hedge or hedgerow is a line of closely spaced shrubs or tree species planted and trained to form a barrier or to mark the boundary of an area, such as between neighboring properties. Besides marking property lines, hedges also can line walkways, improve privacy, highlight a garden focal point or even become the focal point. A hedgerow also provides an ideal habitat for birds. In short, living shrubs can create magical effects that fences cannot.

For your hedge, choose plants that match both your taste and height requirements as well as those that best suit your climate and garden conditions. Wise plant choices make a healthy hedge that's easy to maintain. Slow- and moderate-growing plants are best in terms of maintenance, since fast growers require more frequent upkeep. A tidy, formal hedge needs regular trimming, while a naturalistic design entails only an annual trim. To help you in your choice, a table of commonly used hedge plants is included on the back of this page.

One plant not included on our list is bamboo, which also can serve as a wonderful hedge. Once an individual bamboo cane is cut short, it remains that height. And while it won't get taller, it will continue to add branches and leaves. We can help with the selection of the best variety or education on planting or trimming.

Your choice of shrubs also should be guided by the style of hedge you want. Formal hedges, with a solid architectural form, neatly frame a yard or "rooms" within it. Evergreen shrubs like boxwoods, arborvitae, or hollies suit formal hedge designs. Alternately, you can opt for an informal layered effect using a flowering, variegated or different color leaf variety or different plants of varied heights.

Pruning the sides of your hedges in a straight vertical fashion usually limits the sun that hits the bottom of the hedge. The reduced sunlight results in a loss of leaves and a growing "leggy" look to the bottom of your hedge. To avoid the leggy look, cut

the sides of your hedges on at least a 15 degree angle, thus allowing the sun to hit the entire side of the hedge.

Measure the length of the planting area and consider the shrub's mature spread to determine the number of shrubs you will need for your hedge. When planting a hedge, you usually want a planting area free of grass so in order to determine the size of the area you need to clear, measure the length of the hedge you want and add 3 to 4 feet beyond the center of the last plants on each side. The width would be determined by the type of plant and the width you plan on maintaining the hedge. Of course the width could be expanded at a later date as the plants grow.

Removing grass from around a hedge is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also good for the health of the plant, especially by keeping potentially damaging equipment away from the plants while maintaining the grass with mowers and weed eaters. If you decide to have the grass removed it can be accomplished in either two ways: mechanically or chemically.

Mechanical removal can be as simple as using a hard rake if the grass is thin or a sod cutter if the grass is thick. Chemical removal can be accomplished with a weed killer such as **Killzall** before or after planting. Killzall will kill any existing vegetation without harming the hedge plants themselves **as long you don't directly spray the foliage of the desirable plants**. Killzall will have no effect on the good plants through the roots. However once it is sprayed on the foliage of any plants it travels down through the plant to the roots and kills the plant.

The logo for Rockledge Gardens features the word "Rockledge" in a large, teal, serif font above the word "Gardens" in a similar but slightly smaller font. A stylized teal leaf or wave graphic is positioned behind the "G" in "Gardens".

Naturally beautiful and fun!

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Suggested Hedge Plants for Brevard County

Plant Name	Hedge height (in feet)	Spacing (in feet)	Growth rate	Sun/ Shade	Cold Tolerant	Drought Tolerant	Salt Tolerant	Description
Allamanda	3-5	4-4½	M	S/PSh	MH	MH	M	beautiful yellow trumpet-shaped flowers most of the year
Arbicola, Gold Capella	8-10	2½-3	M	S/Sh	H	H	M	variegated golden-green foliage
Arbicola, Trinetta	4-6	2-2½	M	S/Sh	H	H	M	great foundation or contrast hedge
Areca palm	18-20	3-6	M	S/PSh	ML	H	M	spectacular tropical privacy screen
Bottlebrush, Better John	3-5	4-6	S	S/PS	H	H	M	improved Little John: grows faster and easier; has better color
Bottlebrush, Little John	3-5	4-6	S	S/PS	H	H	M	deepest red blooms; attracts bees, butterflies & hummingbirds
Bottlebrush, MacArthur	6-8	3-5	S	S/PSh	H	H	M	red blooms; attracts bees, butterflies & hummingbirds
Bottlebrush, Slim	8-9	2-3	S	S/PSh	H	H	M	red blooms; attracts bees, butterflies & hummingbirds
Bougainvillea	6-20	4-5	F	S	H	H	M	showy, decorative flowering hedge; many colors available
Bougainvillea, dwarf	3-5	2-3	F	S	H	H	M	showy smaller hedge available in fuschia, pink and coral
Cape Honeysuckle	3-5+	3-5	F	S/PS	H	H	H	flowers heavily fall and winter; attracts hummingbirds
Carissa, Boxwood Beauty	2+	1½	S	S/PS	H	H	H	fragrant white flowers in spring, edible fruit; sprawling habit
Carissa, Emerald Blanket	1½	1	S	S/PS	H	H	H	fragrant white flowers in spring, edible fruit; sprawling habit
Cattley (Strawberry) Guava	8-12	4-6	M	S/PSh	H	M	L	patterned bark; delicious fruit; can plant close to house
Carissa, Grandiflora	3+	3-5	S	S/PS	H	H	H	fragrant white flowers in spring, edible fruit; sprawling habit
Clusia	6-20+	8-15	MF	S/PSh	M	H	H	low maintenance & trouble free; also called Autograph Plant
Clusia, dwarf	~2	2-3	M	S/PS	M	H	H	low maintenance & trouble free; also called Autograph Plant
Cocoplum*	4-10	3-4+	M	S/PS	M	M	M	provides an edible plum; has a "beachy" look; easy care plant
Coontie Palm*	2-3	1-3	S	S/Sh	MH	H	M	a tough cookie, coontie is making a comeback from extinction
Copperleaf	5-7	3-5	F	S/PS	M	M	M	provides a continuous splash of color in the landscape
Dwarf Burford Holly	3-5	2-3	M	S/PS	H	M	L	fragrant white flowers red berries ; discourages burglars
Dwarf Ixora	2½-3	2-2½	M	S/PS	L	L	M	gorgeous flowers most of the year, easy care, compact size
Eleagnus	6-15	8-10	F	S/PS	H	H	H	sweet fragrance of flowers will delight in autumn and winter
Eugenia (Brush Cherry)	5-10	3-5	F	S/PSh	H	L	L	great dense privacy sculpting in narrow area; AKA brush cherry
Feijoa/Pineapple Guava	4-12	4-6	F	S/PSh	H	H	H	rounded, dense shrub; can be pruned radically
Firebush*	4-10	3-6	F	S/PS	M	M	M	major bird, butterfly and hummingbird attractor
Firebush, dwarf	3-5	3-4	F	S/PS	L	L	L	great nectar source for butterflies d hummingbirds
Gold Mound Duranta	2½-6	2½-3	MF	S/PS	M	L	M	golden color; one of the most valued colorful foliage plants
Green Island Ficus	3-4	2½-3	S	S/PSh	M	H	H	terrific choice for a dense low hedge; very low mainenance
Ilex Schilling	2½-5	2½-3	S	S/PS	H	H	H	AKA dwarf Yaupon holly; very easy care; provde formal look
Indian Hawthorn	2½-3	2-2½	S	S/PSh	H	M	H	very low maintenance, perfect for the armchair gardener
Ixora	3-5	2½-3	F	S/PS	M	L	M	very showy blossoms most of the year
Japanese Boxwood	2-3	~2	S	S/Sh	H	M	L	perfect for formal, manicured landscaping
Jasmine varieties	2-5	2-4	MF	S/PSh	H-M	M	L-M	see us for more information on the different jasmine varieties
Juniper	1-2½	2½-3	S	S/PS	H	L	H	good choice for very low-growing hedge; no trimming needed
Ligustrum	3-6+	3-4	S	S/PS	H	L	M	different varieties: green upright, gold-tipped, variegated
Necklace Pod*	6-10	3-5	M	S	H	MH	H	well-suited to coastal or inland, attracts many butterfly species
Panama Rose	~3	~3	F	S/PSh	L	M	L	profuse pink blossoms; butterfly attractor; nighttime fragrance
Pittosporum	3-10	~3	M	S/PSh	H	H	M	dense growth allows for shaping as formal hedge or topiary
Podocarpus	4-10+	~3	S	S/Sh	H	H	M	not a hedge-in-a-hurry, but luxuriously full when mature
Sambac/Arabian Jasmine	4-6	2½-3	M	S/PSh	M	LM	L	beautifully scented blooms can be used to make jasmine tea
Schefflera	4-20	~5	F	S/Sh	H	M	H	very popular choice for low-maintenance heavy screen
Sea Grape *	6-20+	3-4	M	S/PSh	L	H	H	great erosion control; tasty fruit; attracts birds and bees
Silver Buttonwood*	5-10+	3-4	MF	S/PS	L	H	H	a tough tree! unusual color contrasts with our green landscape
Simpson Stopper	6-20	~3	M	S/Sh	H	H	H	attracts butterflies & birds; fragrant blossoms on & off
Surinam Cherry	8-20	3-5	M	S/PSh	MH	L	L	reliably dense & uniform hedge; cherry-like flowers; tasty fruit
Texas Sage	3-8	~3	S	S/PSh	H	H	M	silvery foliage & purple flowers on & off all year
Viburnum, Awabuki	8-14	5½	MS	S/PS	M	M	M	works well as fast-and tall growing privacy hedge
Viburnum , Mrs. Schillers	2-5	3-4	S	S/PS	H	M	L	well suited to small spaces where compact shrubs are needed
Viburnum, Suspensum	3-6+	3-4	M	S/Sh	H	L	L	ideal choice for a dense green hedge in any light, even shade!
Viburnum, Sweet	4-10+	4-5½	F	S/PS	H	M	L	sweet-smelling blooms in spring; fast-growing hedge shrub
Viburnum, Walters	6-15	5-6	M	S/PSh	H	M	L	more upright then other viburnums
Wax Myrtle*	5-20	7-20	F	S/Sh	H	H	M	produces a sturdy, long-lived hedge

LEGEND

* indicates native Florida plant

Growth Rate: F = fast, MF = moderately fast, M = moderate, MS = moderately slow, S = slow

Sun/Shade: S = full sun, PS = partial sun, PSh = partial shade, Sh = shade

Cold, Drought & Salt: H = high, MH = moderately high, M = moderate, ML = moderately low, L = low