

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.

Choosing hedge plants:

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.

Bamboo can also 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.

A tidy, formal hedge needs regular trimming, while a naturalistic design entails only an annual trim.

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. Alternatively, you can opt for an informal layered effect using a flowering, variegated or different color leaf variety, or different plants of varying heights.

Pruning your hedges:

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 at a 15-degree angle, to allow 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.

The logo for Rockledge Gardens features the company name in a teal, serif font. The word "Rockledge" is on the left and "Gardens" is on the right, with a decorative flourish underneath "Gardens".

Suggested Hedge Plants for Brevard County

Plant Name	Height (ft)	Spacing (ft)	Growth Rate	Sun/Shade	Cold Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Description
Allamanda	3-5	4-4½	M	S/PSH	MH	MH	M	Beautiful yellow trumpet-shaped flowers most of the year
Arboricola, Gold Capella	8-10	2½-3	M	S/Sh	H	H	M	Variegated golden-green foliage
Arboricola, Trinetta	4-6	2-2½	M	S/Sh	H	H	M	Ground 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, and hummingbirds
Bottlebrush, MacArthur	6-8	3-5	S	S/PSH	H	H	M	Red blooms; attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds
Bottlebrush, Slim	8-9	2-3	S	S/PSH	H	H	M	Red blooms; attracts bees, butterflies, and 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 in 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
Carissa, Grandiflora	3+	3-5	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
Clusia	6-20+	8-15	MF	S/PSH	M	H	H	Low maintenance and trouble free; also called Autograph Plant
Clusia, dwarf	~2	2-3	M	S/PS	M	H	H	Low maintenance and 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 and reviving the near-extinct Atala butterfly
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 flowers, red berries; discourages burglars with spines on the leaves
Dwarf Ixora	2½-3	2-2½	M	S/PS	L	L	M	Gorgeous flowers most of the year; easy care, compact size
Elaeagnus	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 sculpture in narrow areas
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 and 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 maintenance
Ilex Schilling	2½-5	2½-3	S	S/PS	H	H	H	AKA Dwarf Yaupon Holly; very easy care, provides a 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/OS	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	Talk to our staff 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 a 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 privacy 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 and birds; fragrant blossoms on and off
Surinam Cherry	8-20	3-5	M	S/PSH	MH	L	L	Reliably dense and uniform hedge; cherry-like flowers; tasty fruit
Texas Sage	3-8	~3	S	S/PSH	H	H	M	Silvery foliage; purple flowers on and off all year
Viburnum, Awabuki	8-14	5½	<S	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 than other viburnums
Wax Myrtle*	5-20	7-20	F	S/Sh	H	H	M	Produces a sturdy, long-lived hedge

Legend

* = indicates a Florida native 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, and salt: H = high, MH = moderately high, M = moderate, ML = moderately low, L = low