

Economy Garden Mix - Planting Guide

First off, thank you for buying our **Economy Garden Mix**. Before the plants were packed we dipped them in a solution of Potassium Phosphite, this gives them a small amount of food while they are in a dormant state.

Step 1 - You may or may not have completed this before your plants were delivered.

The first step is to clear all the rubbish, grass, and weeds from the area where your new hedge is to be planted, this will make life a lot easier for when you come to planting. As your plants have arrived unpack them from the cardboard and the white plastic, keep them in the clear bag and place them in a cool dark shed or garage until needed. Once in the dark they should be stable for up to a week, if you need to store them longer you may want to heel them into soil or compost. Make sure you cover the entire root system and water the plants once covered.

Step 2 - Hole preparation

Once step one is completed and the plants are stored in a cool place, mark out the area for planting. Your best bet is to start with the back row, each plant wants to be 40cm apart. Once you have marked out the holes for the back row you can begin to dig all the holes. Each hole really needs to be a spade wide by a spade deep. Once some or all the holes are ready place a hand full of compost in the hole. Please note that this is a guide, the bigger the hole the better the plants will establish.

Step 3 - Plant preparation

If you decided to buy some **Rootgrow** now is the time to make the mixture up by following the instruction on the packet, if you didn't then a bucket of water will be needed. Open the clear bag and using a sharp knife cut the string that is holding the plants together. You will find that once you have cut the string the plants will be tied in bundles, which will be labelled with plant type and the amount, cut the string that holds each bundle but keep them separate so you know which plant is which. In order to make a really well mixed hedge its best to place the plants at random within the hedge, the table below will tell you how many plants to use per 20 holes.

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8no Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
4no Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
3no Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
2no Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
1no Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
1no Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)
1no Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*)

Dip the plant in the bucket of **Rootgrow** or water and then place the plant in the hole. If the roots won't fit squeeze them together and poke them in, it won't hurt them. Place another handful of compost on top of the roots and then back fill with the soil removed in the digging of the hole and firm down the soil using your heel. Make sure the plant is nice and straight and move on to the next one. The roots can not be exposed for longer than 10 minutes in the planting process, if this happens it could prevent the plant from taking. On a windy day this time frame drops rapidly, constant dipping in water or Rootgrow will prevent the plants drying out.

Once the back row is planted attach any canes and guards. Its best to insert the cane down the side of the plant and then apply the spiral rabbit guard. Make sure you put the guard on with the arrow facing up, it's made up of 5 holes in a arrow formation. A good tip is to make sure all plants are protected at the end of the day as rabbits like to do their chewing at night. After finishing the back row you may begin on the front. This time dig a hole staggered between 2 of the plants in the back row but bring the plant forward 30cm (1ft), this will give your new hedge some width. Plant with the same care as you have for the back row of plants, and then apply rabbit protection as needed.

Once you have completed this step back in amazement, after all your hard work your new hedge is complete!

Spring and autumn feeding.

This process is not 100% needed but will help your new hedge to establish a lot faster and mature a lot quicker. We suggest using Growmore or Q4 as a good autumn and spring feed. It's low cost and great efficiency surpasses the old fashioned bonemeal that other company's suggest you use. Simply follow the instructions on the container. A little and often is the best method, this helps stop over feeding and root burn.

If you have any questions or need any help regarding planting or anything else, we are only a phone call or email away.