

# Healthy Hedges Trimming Guide

Trimming hedges keeps them healthy with thick new growth and no gaps

## Let the hedge grow

don't trim back to the same point - allow gradual growth each year so the hedge gets bigger

## Trim after 1<sup>st</sup> October

or later if possible to leave fruit, nuts and seeds for wildlife

## Don't trim all the hedges in one year

so there are hedges at different stages of growth across the farm

## Let trees grow

allow hedge trees to grow into standards with one every 20 metres

## Let it flower

don't trim for a couple of years so fruit and nuts can develop

## Lay or coppice

when a hedge has got tall with thick stems it's time to lay or coppice it and start the growing cycle again

Different hedges need different management depending on condition, age and location.

As well as regular trimming, hedges need rejuvenating by laying, coppicing and then trimming to make them wide, tall and dense.

Hedges need active management to deliver a range of benefits on the farm:  
**stock proof boundaries - soil conservation - prevent flooding - reduce pollution**  
**pest and disease control - woodfuel - capture and store carbon - wildlife and biodiversity**



For further information on hedges, see [hedgelink.org.uk](http://hedgelink.org.uk), [devonhedges.org](http://devonhedges.org) or contact your local FWAG South West advisor on 01823 660684, alternatively email [info@fwagsw.org.uk](mailto:info@fwagsw.org.uk) or visit our website [www.fwagsw.org.uk](http://www.fwagsw.org.uk)

This advice note was created by FWAG South West in association with the Devon Hedge Group.