

Defensive Planting

Crime Prevention Advice

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice

The concept of defensive planting is simple, but highly effective - providing an attractive natural defence. The varieties of very prickly plants below have each been chosen for their impenetrability. Plant them under vulnerable windows and allow to grow to sill height. You can also plant them around boundaries so that intruders would be unable to pass through or over the plants without injuring themselves. Most good garden centres should supply them and be able to advise on the best planting times.

BERBERIS STENOPHYLLA (BARBERRY)



Growth: Medium sized shrub, arching habit,

evergreen.

Flowers: Yellow in April/May, blue/black

berries in Autumn.

Uses: Hedging or border shrub.

Spike Rating: Excellent foliage and stems, well

armed with spines.

(Other varieties of Berberis also available)

ERBERIS JULIANAE (BARBERRY)



Growth: Medium sized evergreen shrub.

Flowers: Yellow in late Spring, young growth

has coppery tints.

Uses: Hedging or border shrub.

Spike Rating: Excellent prickly foliage, very spiny

(Other varieties of Berberis also available)

AOUIFOLIUM 'FEROX ARGENTEA' (HEDGEHOG HOLLY)



Growth: Medium/tall sized shrub, evergreen,

male plants - no berries

Flowers: Not a prominent feature but interesting colourful foliage.

Uses: Hedging or border shrub.

Very good, tightly packed spines Spike Rating: on sides and top of leaves. (Other varieties of holly also available)

HONIA MEDIA 'WINTER SUN'



Growth: Medium sized shrub, attractive

evergreen leaves.

Flowers: Erect racemes of scented yellow

flowers in winter.

Uses: Border shrub.

Spike Rating: Good, spiny edged foliage.

(Other varieties of Mahonia also available)

PYRACANTHA ORANGE GLOW (FIRETHORN)



Growth: Medium/large evergreen shrub.

White in early summer followed Flowers:

by orange autumn berries.

Uses: Hedging, border or wall shrub.

Spike Rating: Excellent very spiny stems. (Other varieties of Pyracantha also available)

SUPERBA 'CRIMSON AND GOLD (JAPONICA)



Growth: Medium size spreading shrub.

Flowers: Cup shaped red petals with golden

stamens, quince fruits.

Uses: Hedging, border or wall shrub. Spike Rating: Very good, well spined stems.

(Other varieties of Chaenomeles also

More Defensive Plants

Shrub: RUBUS THIBETANUS - Comments: White stemmed Bramble, fern like silvery leaves, pink flowers, clumps of attractive white stems

| | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Suitable for hedging | |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ |

Shrub: PYRACANTHA various varieties -Comments: Firethorn, can be kept neat by pruning.

| | Flowers | | | Height above | | | |
|---|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|----------|-------------|-------|
| | | Berries | walls/fences | 2 metres | 2 metres | for hedging | shade |
| 4 | ./ | _/ | _/ | ./ | | ./ | ./ |
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Shrub: BERBERIS VERRUCULOSA - Comments: Compact, slow growing shiny green leaves with white undersides, yellow flowers

| | | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | | Suitable for hedging | |
|----|----|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|----|
| ./ | _/ | | | / | / | / | ./ |

Shrub: BERBERIS DARWINII -Comments: Bright orange flowers with red tints. A fine flowering shrub.

| Berries walls/tences 2 metres 2 metres for hedging shade | - | Flowers | Fruits/ | Suitable for | Height above | Height below | Evergreen | Suitable | OK in partial |
|--|---|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| | - | | Berries | walls/fences | 2 metres | 2 metres | | for hedging | shade |
| | - | / | / | | | ✓ | ✓ | \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ | / |

Shrub: BERBERIS BUXIFOLIA

Comments: Orange - yellow flowers, purple grape-like berries.

| | | | Height above | Height below | Evergreen | Suitable | OK in partial |
|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| | Berries | walls/fences | 2 metres | 2 metres | · . | for hedging | shade |
| / | | | | ✓ | ✓ ✓ | / | / |

Shrub: CHANOMELES various varieties - Comments: The Japonica or Japanese Quince, saucer-shaped spring flowers can be kept neat by regular pruning.

Suitable OK in partial Fruits/ Suitable for Height above Height below Evergreen Berries walls/fences 2 metres 2 metres

Shrub: HIPPOPHAE RHAMNOIDES -

Comments: Sea Buckhorn, white flowers orange berries. Makes a tough hedge.

| Flowers | | | Height above | Height below | | |
|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
| , | Berries | walls/fences | 2 metres | 2 metres | for hedging | shade |
| ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |

Comments: Rhamanas Rose, dense prickly stems. Excellent hedging plant.

| | | | Height above | Height below | Evergreen | Suitable | OK in partial | ı |
|---|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|---|
| | Berries | walls/fences | 2 metres | 2 metres | | for hedging | shade | ı |
| ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | √ | ✓ | ı |

Shrub: CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA -Comments: Common Hawthorn. May or Quickthorn. Makes a superb, wildlife friendly hedge.

| Flowers | | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Suitable for hedging | |
|---------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| ✓ | √ | Wallo/Tolloco | ✓ × | 2 motros | | √ |

Shrub: ULEX EUROPAEUS PLENA

Comments: Double flowered Gorse, very prickly. Makes a tough hedge.

| Flowers | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | | Suitable for hedging | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| \checkmark | | ✓ | | ✓ | \checkmark | |