

Hedges to Improve Canadian Homes

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pruning to keep it within bounds. This spruce should be in the open where it will get bright light to do its best. The native White Spruce (*Picea canadensis*) makes a beautiful hedge but is so often disfigured by the spruce gall worm that it is not recommended for general planting on this account.

Deciduous Hedges of Medium Height—A few satisfactory hedges of medium to tall-growing shrubs have been found among the many that have been tested. Two of the best are the Alder Buckthorn and Wayfaring Tree. The Shrubby or Woody Caragana (*Caragana frutescens*) makes an attractive looking hedge, but is rather soft and sometimes gets out of shape with the weight of snow. It also suckers to some extent. The Tamarack and European Larch have both made good hedges.

Alder Buckthorn (*Rhamnus Frangula*)—This is a more attractive looking hedge than the Common Buckthorn. The leaves are rather small, are glossy and of an attractive shade of green. It stands pruning well and will succeed in partial shade better than some others. While put among hedges of medium height, if allowed to grow, it will reach any height a hedge is likely to be needed, but can be kept down with little trouble. It is not thorny like the Common Buckthorn and on this account is not so desirable where anything is liable to run up against it much.

Wayfaring Tree (*Viburnum Lantana*)—The Wayfaring Tree, or shrub, as it really is, was planted as a hedge in 1890 and after thirty years is still in good condition. While the

foliage is rather large to make the most attractive kind of hedge, it is of a lively green colour which offsets that to a large extent. It has done well under pruning and is still clothed with branches to the ground. While the hedge at Ottawa is in bright light, this shrub would probably succeed better in partial shade than some others.

Evergreen Hedges Medium to Low in Height—The best evergreen hedges of medium height are those made by the various forms of the American Arbor-vitæ, but the ordinary one found growing wild in many places in Eastern Canada is very satisfactory. The Japanese Yew (*Taxus cuspidata*) is promising and the Swiss Stone Pine (*Pinus Cembra*) is still a good hedge after twenty-six years' growth.

American Arbor-vitæ (*Thuja occidentalis*)—This is the best evergreen hedge which can be readily kept at a medium height, or let grow tall as desired. It stands clipping well, will endure shade better than most plants, is only a moderately strong grower, lessening the amount of pruning which would otherwise be necessary, and can readily be kept looking well trimmed for most of the year. It is also very hardy. The hardiest variety of this would seem to be the Siberian Arbor-vitæ *Thuja occidentalis Waireana*, which, however, has a little coarser look than the ordinary form. Other varieties are dwarfier and they are very suitable where a low-growing evergreen hedge is desired. Among these may be mentioned the Globose Arbor-vitæ (*Thuja occidentalis globosa*) and Compact Arbor-vitæ (*Thuja occidentalis compacta*).

Low-growing Deciduous Hedges—Three of the best low-growing hardy deciduous hedges are the Japanese Barberry (*Berberis Thunbergii*), the Dwarf Caragana (*Caragana pygmaea*)

and the Alpine Currant (*Ribes alpinum*). The only privet that has proved at all suitable for hedge purposes at Ottawa is the Amur Privet (*Liaustrum amurense*), but from time to time even this kills to near the ground and the hedge becomes unsightly for a time, hence no privet is recommended for the colder parts of Ontario nor for Quebec.

Japanese Barberry (*Berberis Thunbergii*)—This is the most satisfactory and most popular low-growing hedge. It will reach a height of four feet if desired. It has the good hedge qualities of being of compact habit with small attractive foliage and sufficiently firm to keep its shape well. The leaves become highly coloured in autumn and after they fall the scarlet berries give this hedge a pleasing appearance until it is covered with snow. So far the disease which causes the rust of wheat has not been found on this species, so that it can be planted without fear of its doing harm. There is a dwarf form of this called Box Barberry, which should prove very useful where a very small hedge is desired.

Dwarf Caragana (*Caragana pygmaea*)—Dwarf caragana, because of its great hardiness and attractive flowers, is a desirable shrub, but on account of its small foliage and neat habit it makes a very good low hedge. The colour of the foliage, however, is rather dull, which detracts from it where a bright-looking hedge is desired.

Alpine Currant (*Ribes alpinum*)—The Alpine Currant has not been tested long at Ottawa as a hedge plant, but it has done well elsewhere and it promises to make a good low hedge here. The foliage is comparatively small and is of an attractive shade of green, and the habit of the bush is compact.



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