

Moorside Allotments Association

Advice from Northumberland Wildlife Trust about maintainence of our wildlife hedge

In the first year your hedge will need extra care. Weeds can easily outgrow the young hedge plants and it is therefore important to water, mulch and weed regularly during the first summer. If there is a risk of rabbit grazing, protect the young hedge with a mesh wire fence or tree guards. Any plants or shrubs that do not survive the first summer can be replaced next autumn or winter.

In the first spring after planting, cut the shrubs back to 45-60 cm above the ground in order to encourage dense growth and a thicker hedge. After a few years, trim it into an 'A' shape to ensure optimum sunlight on each surface. This encourages dense bushy growth around the base, providing good cover for nesting birds and small mammals. After 10-15 years, once the hedge is well established, it may be worth considering laying it. This extends the life of the hedge and increases its wildlife value.

Kara Jackson
Wildplaces Project Officer