

OTHER USES

Still other species can be included for other uses such as for natural medicines, poles, insecticides etc. By carefully choosing the right trees and planting them a multipurpose useful hedge can be created



The principle of the Six “F” hedge is one that can be adapted for any area and the most suitable species for the area need to be chosen, so that the hedge is really useful.


SIX “F” HEDGES



Hedges can be far more than just a boundary. When plants like *Euphorbia* are used, they are chosen as being easy to plant but the land is wasted and it has no other use. By planting a hedge and choosing the right species a hedge can become a very productive part of any farm and can help to create an improved environment in agricultural areas.

The six “F” hedge refers to six uses of the tree that can be included in any hedge:

- **Fence** – as a boundary.
- **Fuel** – the hedge can be pruned for firewood
- **Fertiliser** – the leaves from certain species, especially legumes form good manure for the soil
- **Fodder** – the leaves and pods of some species can be fed to animals
- **Food** – species that produce fruit and vegetable can be chosen for including in the hedge
- **Fibre** – for tying things in the garden

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CHOICE OF SPECIES FOR USE IN A SIX ‘F’ HEDGE

<i>Use</i>	<i>Species to chose from</i>	<i>Part used</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Fence	Any species chosen for other uses will help form the fence	The trunk and branches	Quick growing species such as <i>Sesbania</i> or <i>Moringa</i> help establish the line of the fence while others are growing. Branches can be bent to fill in gaps.
Fuel	<i>Sesbania</i> <i>Leucaena</i> <i>Calliandra</i>	The branches and trunk	Fast growing trees that sprout (coppice or pollard) when cut back are particularly suitable
Fertiliser	Leguminous trees such as <i>Leucaena</i> , <i>Sesbania</i> and <i>Calliandra</i> <i>Tithonia</i>	The leaves For <i>Tithonia</i> the whole plant is cut back regularly and used for mulch or manure tea	Most leaves form a good basis for fertility when added to the soil. They also help improve animal manure. Trees in a hedge should be chosen to be ones that do not damage the crops nearby.
Fodder	<i>Leucaena</i> <i>Sesbania</i> <i>Calliandra</i>	The leaves, green shoots and immature pods	Young leaves are particularly palatable to animals, and these species are chosen as being very suitable. Fodder trees can be added to cut grass such as Napier. When using <i>Leucaena</i> do not use more than 20% of the total feed
Food	<i>Moringa</i> Guava Mulberry Passion fruit	Moringa and mulberry leaves are a very good vegetable. The fruits of mulberry, guava and passion fruit are eaten	Moringa is a very useful multi-purpose tree. Passion fruit is a climber and the support of trees in a hedge is very practical. It can be planted a little way away from the hedge and the trees used as the trellis.
Fibre	Mulberry	Bark	There are many places in the garden when things need to be tied. The bark of a number of species of tree and shrub can be used for this