

The varieties shown are not all inclusive.
Contact your local garden centre for more advice.

Berberis Stenophylla

Use as a hedge or shrub. Evergreen with long arching prickly branches bearing masses of yellow flowers in spring. Grows to 2-4 metres.



Berberis Julianae

Yellow, early flowering species. Evergreen with shiny dark leaves.



Berberis Ottawensis Superba (Or any other from the purpurea group.)

Use for a hedge or shrub. Deciduous plant with purple leaves and yellow flowers in Spring. Grows up to 2 metres.



Berberis Gagne Painii

Small, dense prickly evergreen suitable for low hedges, can grow to be impenetrable at 2 plants per metre.



Pyracantha

An evergreen with white flowers and yellow, red or orange berries. Useful on fences and walls up to 5 metres high, or as a hedge.



Hippophae Rhamnoides

Grows in any soil and is resistant to the wind. Has silver foliage with large thorns. An excellent shrub, best planted in groups.



Rosa Rugosa

A very prickly shrub rose with pink or white flowers. Grows up to 1.5 metres high.



Ulex Euopaeus

This is common Gorse, extremely thorny. Pretty yellow flowers in March and May.



Also suggested *Crataegus Monogyna* or common hawthorn. Quick growing thorny species usually grown as a hedge from bare rooted plants. Inexpensive. Grows up to 2.4 metres in height.



For further information, please contact your local Crime Prevention Officer on 08453 700700
www.northants.police.uk



sheds



garden



garages



Securing your sheds, gardens, and garages

Shed Security



Thieves target sheds because they often contain valuable items such as pedal cycles, lawn mowers, hedge trimmers and other tools. Everyday garden implements can be used by thieves to break into the owner's house and therefore sheds should be made as secure as possible.

Fit a good quality hasp and staple with close-shackled padlock to the door and secure it with either non-return screws or preferably coach bolts secured internally with a large washer.

Where the shed is secured with a keyed lock fit as an addition a hasp and staple with padlock.

Hinges should be fitted with non-return screws.

Shed windows can be fitted internally with a weld mesh grille and items can be obscured from view with net curtains or bamboo blinds.

Cover over any valuable items in the shed with old sacks or curtains.

If valuable items are stored in the shed lay a small area of concrete within the shed and fix anchor points to which large items can be secured with a length of chain. If the shed is very flimsy or fragile consider storing valuable items elsewhere.

Fit a battery operated shed alarm. They are easy to fit and will make a loud noise if the shed is entered.

Post code property with either an etching tool or dye stamps. Postcodes can also be painted onto large items.

Garden Boundaries

The first line of defence against a burglar is the garden boundary. Whether a low brick wall with a gate at the front of the property or a higher structure to the rear, the garden boundary clearly indicates that the space behind it is private.



A well maintained fence or wall will enhance the appearance of a property whilst one which is broken down or badly maintained can indicate a general lack of security which will invite a burglar in.

Front garden boundaries should be no higher than 1 metre (3' 3"). This allows passers by to look into the garden and prevents intruders working unseen at the front of the house. A higher front wall or fence will require planning permission if it abuts the highway. Contact your local planning authority for more information.

To prevent people from sitting on a low garden wall, consider topping it with a low railing positioned towards the outer edge.

Rear garden boundaries are usually 1.8 metres (6') high. This is usually sufficient providing that the boundary does not abut open space, a footpath or alleyway. If this is the case consider increasing the height to 2 metres (6' 6") or top the fence or wall with diamond trellis. Fences higher than 2 metres (6' 6") will require planning permission.

Where a fence or wall abuts accessible open land, consider growing thorny or prickly plants on either side of the boundary. Permission will be required to plant on land owned by others.

Fences or walls can be protected from graffiti by growing climbing plants over them.

Garden Security

Ensure that any gates into the back garden are fitted with padlocked bolts.

Consider using gravel on pathways. This is noisier to walk on than paving stones and can alert you to intruders.

Remove, where possible, any items close to the garden perimeter which could be climbed on by thieves for an easy exit.

Securely store any garden implements after use. Spades and garden forks can be used as tools to gain entry to a house.

Photograph any valuable garden ornaments so that Police can circulate an accurate description if the item is stolen.

Tell the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator or your neighbours if you are going away.



Garage Security

Up and over garage doors should be secured with custom-made garage locks which prevent the door being lifted upwards. Consider fitting key operated locks to both bottom right and left hand sides of the up and over door or fit a central external security measure such as a substantial hasp and staple with close shackled padlock.

Where there is a second point of exit from a garage drill holes into the garage door runners and fit long bolts to prevent the door being operated.

The alternative exit door should be fitted with a 5-lever mortice lock.

Pedal cycles, ladders and other valuable items should be securely padlocked to an immovable object within the garage.

If the house is protected by a burglar alarm consider extending the alarm to cover the garage. Alternatively consider the use of a custom-made battery operated garage alarm.

Keep the car in the garage and make sure it is alarmed and immobilised.



Occupiers Liability Act 1984

The Act states that an occupier of premises may owe a duty of care to a trespasser.



However, there must be a risk of that trespasser suffering injury on the premises i.e "by means of any danger due to the state of the premises or to things done or omitted to be done on them". "Injury" is defined as "anything resulting in death or personal injury". Therefore a trespasser cannot maintain any claim for damages to his property which includes damage to clothing.

Section 1 (3) of the Act states that the occupier only owes a duty of care if:

- He is aware of the danger or has reasonable grounds to believe that it exists
- He knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that others in the vicinity of the danger concerned or that he may come into the vicinity of the danger
- The risk is one against which, in all of the circumstances of the case, he may be reasonably expected to offer the other some protection

If a duty of care has arisen then the duty is to "take such care as is reasonable in all of the circumstances of the case to see that he does not suffer injury on the premises by reason of the dangers concerned", this is an objective test

By Section 1 (5) where a duty has arisen an occupier can discharge it by "taking such steps as are reasonable in all of the circumstances of the case to give warning of the danger or to discourage persons from incurring the risk".

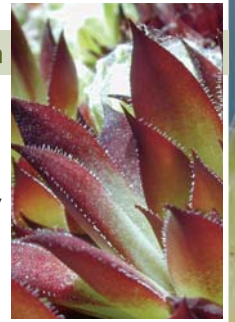
Therefore a clearly visible warning notice should be displayed on the premises in a place or places where it can be seen easily.

By Section 1 (6) in the defence of "violent non fit injuria" is made available i.e. no duty is owed to a trespasser" in respect of risks willingly accepted by that person"

The Occupiers Liability legislation does not include thorn plants but consider the terms of your tenancy agreement or deed of covenant before placement of manufactured spikes.

Prickly Plant Protection

Prickly plants can be used as an attractive alternative to barbed wire and other manufactured spike security and they have the advantage of not being covered by the Occupiers Liability Act 1984.



Prickly plants can provide a natural physical barrier at both the back and front of a property. When used in the front garden care should be taken to ensure that any hedging does not grow above 1 metre in height. It is important to ensure good natural surveillance from passing pedestrians and neighbours.

Prickly plants growing over low walls or fences can remove the natural ladder often afforded by such low structures. Use thorns under windows, around the base of down pipes or in tubs under low roof access points.

Top walls and fences with diamond trellis which is non-weight bearing. It provides a framework for prickly plants to climb through and makes a noise when broken.

Where children are likely to play set non-prickly shrubs and bushes in front of any prickly perimeter planting.

Nettles, rambling blackberries and thistles in a wild part of the garden close to a perimeter should be encouraged to proliferate. They make an excellent deterrent and can provide a nasty shock if landed in!

Prickly plants are attractive and can provide aesthetic appeal with flowers in the Spring and berries in the Autumn.