



Derbyshire Style Factsheet

Derbyshire style uses sawn timber or natural stakes which are placed 24" to 30" apart and driven in vertical in a single row. A strong, stock proof hedge is built by weaving the pleachers (laid stems) in front and behind the stakes. Like the Midland style, the brush is placed to the livestock side of the hedge. No binders are used on the stakes. The finished height of the hedge is 3' 6" - 4'.

Technical Requirements

Pleachers at appropriate angle depending on the length of the stems with a finished height from 3'6" to 4'. Longer stems will allow for a slightly shallower angle of the finished hedge.

Square sawn stakes are spaced in a straight line from 24" to 30" depending on the hedge's initial height and bulk and sawn off flat.

Pleaching cuts should show to the front with the stems laid off 6-8" and the heels cut to the same angle as the pleaches. The pleachers should create an even appearance using secondary cuts where necessary. All the pleachers should be built into the stake line and woven in to lock it solidly. Cutting them in is sometimes required. Double row hedges should be treated as a single row with the furthest stems being brought to the front of the stakes and built in. Binders are not required.

The face should be clean (no brush showing) and the back of the hedge should be full and stock-proof. Dead wood can be used to bulk up the back in the absence of enough live material. The brush on the top is usually finished flat and level. A variant of the style in some areas is to leave the brush untrimmed on the top. The back of the hedge is trimmed neatly with a billhook. The end result should be a solid fence with no loose wood.

