

**RAMA UNIVERSITY, KANPUR, UTTARPRADESH**

**Faculty of Agricultural Sciences & Allied Industries**



**Dr. Ajay Singh**  
**Assistant Professor (Agronomy)**

**Course: Principles of Organic farming**  
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# Hedges

When shrub is planted on boundary for fencing, it is called as hedge. It may be ornamental or protective or both. Hedges also become an important feature of formal layout to serve various functions as screening of the area, out buildings, tennis courts, vegetable gardens, hiding of unwanted places, etc. All the shrubs cannot be planted for making an ideal hedge due to different nature of growth. Only some selected shrubs are used for making an effective hedge.

**For selecting an ideal shrub for a hedge, it should have following characteristics:**

- (a) It should have thick texture and quick growth.
- (b) It should stand trimming to shape.
- (c) It should be easily propagated through seeds or cuttings.
- (d) It should withstand drought conditions.
- (e) It should not attract reptiles or other animals.

## **Classification of Hedges:**

Hedges are planted to protect the area to avoid the trespassing by man or animals or to beautify the boundary of different.

**Therefore, according to purpose, hedge can be classified as:**

### **1. Tall protective hedges:**

The height is about 1-3 m and growth is very dense along with thorns. The plants that can be selected are: *Inga dulcis*, *Acacia farnesiana*, *Carrisa carandus*, *Bougainvillea sp.*, etc.

### **2. Dwarf protective hedges:**

Dwarf shrub grows about 1 m and have thorns and are protective in nature e.g. *Euphorbia bojori*, *Opuntia sp.*, *Agave sp.*, *Pedilanthus sp.*, etc.

### **3. Tall ornamental hedges:**

Shrubs grow 1-3 m tall and have attractive foliage. Plants produce colourful flowers also e.g. *Lawsonia Alba*, *Duranta plumieri*, *Dodonea uiscosa*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Murraya paniculata*, *Theuetia peruviana*, *Hibiscus rosasinensis*, *Stenolobium starts*, *Hamelia patens* etc.

### **4. Dwarf ornamental hedges:**

Height of dwarf hedge is about 1 m and plants are very attractive e.g. *Acalypha sp.*, *clerodendron inerme*, *Thunbergia erecta*, *Daedalacanthus neruosus*, *Lantana sp.*, etc.

