

# Greening Checklist for 2021

## Ecological Focus Areas: Hedges

Hedges provide a habitat and wildlife corridor for a variety of farmland birds, insects and mammals.

Answer each question below with a yes, no or n/a to help check if you are complying with the rules for the 2021 scheme year. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.



Picture above: EFA hedge

- Is your EFA hedge:

- At least 20 metres in length or a length of less than 20 metres where it meets another hedge at each end?
- Up to or including three metres wide from the centre of the hedge?


*Note: Any gap of less than 20 metres is treated as being part of the hedge; if the hedge contains individual trees then they are also considered part of the hedge. Hedges wider than 3 metres from the centre of the hedge are BPS and EFA ineligible; the hedge can however be any height.*

- Is the land you have used to support an EFA hedge:

- On your holding, or under your control/responsibility, on a claimed or, adjacent to a claimed Basic Payment Scheme eligible agricultural parcel?
- On, or, within five metres of arable land or, contiguous to a claimed EFA option in such a way that the longest edge of the hedge is parallel to the field?


- Have you submitted an EFA map with your Single Application Form, detailing the location and length of your EFA hedge?

--

*Note: If you want to claim a newly planted hedge as an EFA hedge it must have been established before the BPS application is submitted i.e. prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> May.*

- Have you **not** undertaken the following activities on your EFA hedge:

- Trim the hedge or lop branches off trees between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August, except for road safety reasons?
- Cultivated the land within two metres of the centre line of the hedge unless you were establishing a green cover (where one does not already exist) or were establishing a new hedge?
- Applied fertilisers or pesticides within two metres of the centre line of the hedge unless you are establishing a new hedge or are applying pesticides by spot applications to control injurious weeds, invasive weeds or certain other weed species?
