

Hedgerow Management Calendar



Enhancing the biodiversity on your farm is a year-round job, and this calendar has been designed to help you with annual tasks related to managing different habitats on your farm. You can print it off, put it on the wall and refer to it throughout the year.

With so much record keeping and form filling to do already, a quick look at this calendar will hopefully remind you of jobs which need to be carried out in order to maintain and enhance some of the biodiversity on your farm.

To help you with biodiversity efforts, we recommend:



Visiting the Biodiversity section on the FAS website



Subscribing to the Natural Capital Podcast



If you have any further questions, you can also contact the FAS advice line for support by calling 0300 323 0161 or emailing advice@fas.scot



By allowing hawthorn to grow for two seasons uncut – the berries can develop to feed birds and small mammals in winter. Cutting less frequently saves on labour and diesel.



Plan your weed control strategy ahead of time for successful establishment.



An excellent hedge growing wide and tall to provide good wildlife habitat at all levels. Modern machinery gives the opportunity to let hedges grow to a better size and can still be easily managed.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When growth has died down check for integrity of fences and enact repairs as necessary. Undertake new planting or gapping up as required. Undertake coppicing if hedge being rejuvenated. Carry out winter weed control if applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If not already cut, undertake trimming and ensure all works are finished before end of February. Undertake new planting or gapping up as required. Undertake coppicing if hedge being rejuvenated. Take part in the BIG FARMLAND BIRD COUNT www.bfbc.org.uk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave hedges undisturbed to allow birds to nest.
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave hedges undisturbed to allow birds to nest. Make an early assessment of growth in young hedges and consider if spraying or hand weeding will be required to reduce competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If planning on having a hedge laid – look for and contact a prospective hedge layer now before things get too busy. Contact National Hedgelaying Society (NHLS) for advice and help. www.hedgelaying.org.uk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor hedge growth. Assess last year's trimming, too much? too little? good hedge shape – lower branches left longer to let them flourish? (i.e. has hedge been trimmed in 'A' shape?) Carry out chemical spraying if required
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess your hedgerows; could they be allowed to grow taller or wider for maximum wildlife benefit? A decent hedge should be at least 1.5m high but why not let it get taller? Could it be wider without affecting grazing or cropping? Good hedges are wider at the bottom than at the top to provide good ground cover. They should be cut in an 'A' shape for maximum benefit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess hedge growth, check for gaps and plan to gap-up if required. Measure gaps and calculate need for plants and materials. If contractor required to carry out planting, contact now before things get too busy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check-in with planting contractor or hedge layer to agree on dates for work. Check-in with hedge trimming contractor (if applicable) to make sure you are booked in. Re-affirm how you want the hedges cut based on your assessment in July, can some be taller or wider. Cutting back on frequency of cutting will save you money on labour and diesel.
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If weeds are outcompeting the growth of young plants, consider a winter weed control programme. Some granular chemicals are specifically used in winter and help young hedges get ahead in the spring. Consult your agronomist for specific advice. Re-familiarise with AECS rules for trimming if applicable. If not in AECS consider only cutting after 2 years growth to let hawthorn berries develop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake new planting or gapping up as required. Undertake coppicing if hedge being rejuvenated. Carry out winter weed control if applicable. Prep for cutting/trimming. Which hedges are being cut and which are being left? Contact hedge trimming contractor (if applicable) to discuss requirements and dates. Prepare a map which would be helpful. Trimming should take place from 1st Nov – 28th February. If trimming in-house, then plan cutting regime. Try to leave cutting until February if ground conditions are likely to allow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake new planting or gapping up as required. Undertake coppicing if hedge being rejuvenated. Carry out winter weed control if applicable. Remove shelters/guards from recently planted hedges which have established well. If concerned about rabbits or hares take off a short section and monitor for a season to see if damage occurs. If not, then remove remaining shelters/guards.