

## INFORMATION NOTES

### Pleached hedging

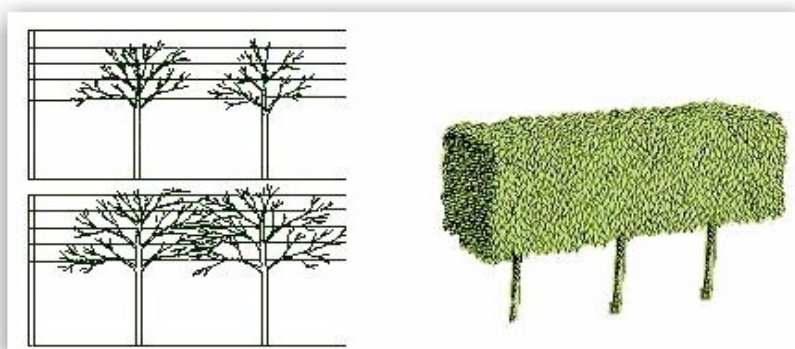
A pleached hedge is sometimes called a 'hedge on legs' or a 'hedge in the sky'. It is formed by clipping the top of the tree (the canopy) into a solid block and leaving the trunk as a support, as shown below.



Pleached trees at Highgrove

Picture Source: *The Garden at Highgrove*

Hornbeam was probably the most popular plant used for making pleached hedges in the eighteenth century although beech was also used. In the Physic Garden we are experimenting with pleaching the following varieties of apple, all of which were available in Britain before 1800: Blenheim Orange; Court Pendu Plat; Blue Pearmain; Hubbard's Pearmain; Devonshire Quarrenden; Decio; King of the Pippins; Ashmead Kernel and Lemon Pippin.



Source: [www.englishcottagegardening.com](http://www.englishcottagegardening.com)

For further information on the ways in which hedges were made in the past see: Elizabeth Banks, *Creating Period Gardens*, The Preservation Press, 1991. This leaflet was produced by Jean Reader, a volunteer at Cowbridge Physic Garden. May 2007.