Hedgerows for Clean Water
Plant native trees or shrub hedgerows along streams, ditches and other waterways.
- Sheds will reduce water temperatures.
- A 10’ wide hedgerow can reduce sediment in surface runoff by 65-70%.
- Hedgerows will trap and utilize nutrients that might escape nutrient management systems.
- Hedgerows will act as a buffer for agricultural chemical applications.
- Hedgerows increase infiltration and decrease the rate of surface water runoff.

Species for Water Quality
- Willows
- Pacific Nootka
- Red Olear Dogwood
- Black Twiberry
- Douglas Spirea
- Many others

Size and Location
- 10’ to 15’ wide minimum
- 3 to 5 rows
- 6 to 10’ tree spacing
- Plant close to the water

Hedgerows for Pollinators
Plant native tree or shrub hedgerows as field or garden borders to attract native pollinators and increase crop production.
- Many insects, birds and small critters benefit to gardeners and farmers are found in hedgerows. They help pollinate over 75% of flowering plants and nearly 75% of crops.
- Native plants in hedgerows serve as sources of nectar and pollen for adult pollinators and provide habitat for nesting and larvae production.
- Hedgerows provide shelter and overwintering for many pollinators.
- Plant early mid and late season blooming plants to provide consistent forage.
- Mix in native flowering perennials.
- A hedgerow around 1/3 of a commercial berry field will eliminate the need for commercial honeybees colonies.

Species for Pollinators
- Willows
- Roses
- Pacific Crabapple
- Salmonberry
- Black Twierry
- Many others

Size and Location
- 5’ wide minimum
- 1-2 row minimum
- Plant adjacent to crop or garden

How to Plant a Hedgerow
- Choose species that fulfill the desired goals.
- Choose species that you like.
- Prepare site in the summer or fall.
- Plant in late fall, winter or early spring.
- Thin diversity: plant fast growing and slow growing.
- Plant tall growing and short growing.
- Plant evergreen and deciduous.
- Maintain the plants for 2-3 years or until established.

HEDGEROWS (Long Skinny Forests)
More Than Just a Living Fence

What is a Hedgerow?
A narrow vegetated strip comprised of native trees, shrubs, grasses or groundcovers designed to buffer adjacent land uses and benefit native wildlife. A functioning hedgerow should be a minimum of 5’ to 10’ wide. The longer the better.

Hedgerows in History
Hedgerow is an old English term that refers to narrow planting strips that grow as field borders, fence lines and waterways. In the Northwest this ancient design method is being expanded to incorporate a diverse number of plant species with a wide variety of functions. Europeans have planted and meticulously maintained hedgerows for hundreds of years to define field boundaries, and to enclose or exclude animals. Hedgerows were also a convenient place to dispose of rocks and other field debris and eventually were a good source of fuel for fire and even some harvestable timber for construction.

During WWll, the “crazy quilt pattern” of hedgerows caused problems for allied troops. They were so problematic, in fact, that their presence led to the development of the “Tankdozer”. The historic art of hedge “laying” declined after WWII due to many factors.

In the US, hedgerows date back to the Homestead Act and to the dust bowl days of the 1930s. Hedgerows in the Midwest were planted primarily as windbreaks. In California hedgerows are commonly used to enhance fruit, vegetable and nut production. They are used today as refuge for pollinators and beneficial insects.

Hedgerows are making a comeback! In Whatcom County hedgerows are commonly used along waterways to improve both water quality and fish habitat. Today we also rely on hedgerows to improve water quality wildlife and salmon habitats.

Learn from history, plant a HEDGEROW today!

Hedgerows for Wildlife
Hedgerows can be used as an inexpensive and attractive means to define a property boundary, field border, road buffer, or as a buffer of different land uses.
- Hedgerows provide a visual screen and reduce noise.
- Once mature hedgerows can serve as livestock fencing.
- Hedgerows can make a good windbreak for farms and reduce heating costs for structures.
- Hedgerows beautify the landscape with foliage, blooms, fruit, and fall color.
- Open fields are hospitable to many native songbirds.

Hedgerows line up the landscape by filling it with birds and bird songs.

Hedgerows are much more attractive and functional than common borders of tall grass and non-native Blackberries.

Species for Delineating a Border
- Cascara
- Shore Pine
- Willows
- Red Olear Dogwood
- Roses
- Many others

Size and Location
- 5’ wide minimum
- At least 1 staggered row
- 3 to 5’ shrub spacing
- 6 to 10’ tree spacing

Hedge<sup>rows</sup> for Wildlife
Planting native trees or shrub hedgerows creates the diverse “edge effect” critical to songbirds and other wildlife.
- Hedgerows provide concentrated food, shelter and space in small areas for large variety of bird, insect and mammal species.
- They provide islands of sanctuary in areas of grassland, cropland or development.
- Hedgerows also improve habitat for salmon and other aquatic species by providing shade, woody debris, and terrestrial insects (fish food).
- Along waterways hedgerows also improve bank integrity, protecting aquatic life from fine sediments.

Species for Wildlife
- Cascara
- Roses
- Black Twierry
- Red Elderberry
- Pacific Crabapple

What size?
- Minimum of 1 row
- Width is better
- Think diversity, multiple plant species benefit multiple wildlife species