

Environnement



Socio-economic Resilience



Background

Hedgerows and marginal areas, such as field margins and road verges, are a typical landscape feature in many parts of Europe. They provide an important habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. However, increased agricultural intensification and associated land-use changes over the past decades have led to a dramatic decrease in the biodiversity of hedgerows and marginal areas.

How does the strategy work?

Establish hedgerows by planting whips every 30cm in two staggered rows with a 40 cm gap, and be sure to leave a 1 to 2 m field margin



Lay, trim or coppice hedgerows as part of a rotation from Sep - Feb



Lay small sections every 15-20 years



Trim hedges every 3- 5 years in an 'A' shape



Coppice and replant gappy areas to encourage dense, wide hedges

Wide, dense and tall hedgerows provide a habitat for flora and fauna, wood from coppicing, and nuts and seeds for wild fauna and foragers!



Equipment involved? Investment?

- 100 m new hedging (550 bare rooted whips and 50 other hedging species): €500 to €800
- Labour and machinery to establish/manage hedges: €50 to €60 /hour
- Wildlife guards or fence (rabbits/deer/cattle), tree guards: €0.50/guard, €7 to €10/m fence

Positive features

Hedgerows and marginal areas;

- Provide an important habitat and resources for wildlife, plants, and pollinators
- Act as a carbon store and can help increase soil organic matter
- Provide shelter along field margins, helping to reduce soil erosion by wind and rain
- Reduce the risk of flooding by slowing water movement, increasing infiltration, and reducing the flow of nutrients and sediment into local waterways
- Provide physical shelter and shade for livestock during wet, windy, or sunny weather

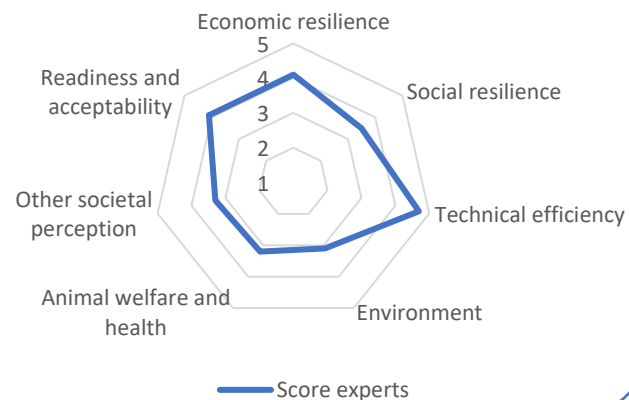
Be careful, especially on these points

- Do not cut/graze until after flowering
- Trim hedgerows in an 'A' shape – **wide, dense and tall** (min. 1.5m) and use a circular saw
- If spraying adjacent crops, spray early in the morning or late in the evening when honeybees are less active

Specific advises

- Do **not** fertilize or spray hedgerows
- Manage in a rotation – cut every 3 to 5 years, lay small sections every 15 to 20 years
- Use native shrubs, trees and wildflowers

Assessment of method



Quote of the farmer:

"It is important to have a management plan in place to establish and maintain hedgerows"