



Garden

Maintenance Tips



We want to make moving in and living in your home as easy and enjoyable as possible. This includes your garden if you have one. This leaflet will give you tips on how to maintain a healthy garden and give advice on hedging, bushes and trees.

WestKent


Places to live. Space to grow.

What we can do to help:

We offer a scheme to help you to look after your garden:

Garden assistance – A free service for tenants who meet the set criteria. This service includes grass cutting to the front, rear and side gardens eight times a year. If there are hedges in the gardens, these will be cut twice a year. The scheme does not include flower beds. If accepted, you will be on this service until you are no longer a West Kent resident.

For more details or to apply, visit our website www.westkent.org/gardeninghelp or call us on 01732 749400.



Low maintenance and slow growing plants


- Choisya Ternata 'Sundance' - hardy evergreen and non-toxic
- Berberis Thunbergii 'Cheal's Scarlet' - non-toxic and birds love the berries
- Osmanthus Delavayi – non-toxic and easily grows in shady spots
- Cryptomeria Japonica 'Globosa Nana' - slow growing and non-toxic



Plants to avoid

- Cupressocyparis leylandii
- Yew hedging
- Trees
- Paper Birch
- Dawn redwood trees
- Weeping willows
- Daffodil bulbs
- Bluebells
- Asparagus fern


Grass maintenance

- The best time to re-seed your grass is March.
 - Regularly remove moss and weeds.
 - Best seasons to mow your grass is March to October.
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Hedge maintenance tips

- It is good practice to remove all old flowers (deadhead) and cut them back to the healthier outward facing buds. Remove all dead wood to reduce the spread of disease and improve congestion.
- The best time of the year to prune your hedging is in mid-winter and early spring.



Tree maintenance

- The best time of year to prune trees and shrubs is during the winter months (from November to March.)
- More mature trees need to be trimmed every three to five years, whereas younger trees will need trimming every two to three years.
- Fruit trees need to be pruned yearly.

We ask that bushes, hedging and trees are not planted within two metres of your home or neighbouring homes, as any closer may cause structural damage.

Please fill out an online form if you wish to plant a hedge or tree in their garden. This will help us to know what is planted where and help to advise you on the best options for your garden.

We take health and safety seriously, so if a tree is deemed unsafe due to being overgrown or too close to a property we will act. This might mean completing the work to make the tree safe, and potentially recharging this back to you.

Always check to see whether a tree has a tree preservation order. If it does, you must apply with your local council before doing any work to the tree. If you don't, you could be faced with a large fine.

West Kent Housing Association

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visit westkent.org
or call 01732 749400

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