

Plants recommended for their defensive properties on the Crime Prevention Website that also benefit wildlife

Shrubs and trees

Plant and defence grade (1st-3rd) ¹	Defensive Properties ¹	Flowers / berries	Height ¹ , type, and how to plant	Wildlife benefits
<p><i>Berberis</i> sp.</p> <p><i>Berberis thunbergii</i> (3 effective defense)</p> <p><i>Berberis stenophylla</i> (2 very effective defense)</p>	<p>All <i>Berberis</i> are spiny and make excellent barrier hedges</p>	<p>Deciduous varieties have good autumn colour, flowers April-May, has berries²</p>	<p>3m Best planted in a group with other shrubs. An evergreen, it prefers full sun and a moist soil, growing slowly²</p>	<p><i>Food and shelter</i></p> <p><i>B. thunbergii</i> can provide berries into autumn and winter²</p> <p>Birds are attracted to the berries, whilst the thorns provide a barrier for safe nesting sites²</p>
<p>Japonica, Japanese Quince</p> <p><i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i> (2 effective defense)</p>	<p>A thorn-bearing shrub with white flowers that is often wall trained</p>	<p>Attractive red or orange spring flowers which are followed by sizeable yellow fruit³</p>	<p>2m A thorny, spreading shrub that can be allowed to do its own thing. Will tolerate some shade³</p>	<p><i>Food: flowers and berries</i>³</p> <p>Birds eat fruit and use dense branches as protection and nest sites.</p> <p>Flowers attractive to bees and bumblebees³</p> <p>Provides nectar and pollen for solitary bees⁴</p>

Plant and defence grade (1st-3rd)¹	Defensive Properties¹	Flowers / berries	Height¹, type, and how to plant	Wildlife benefits
<p>Hawthorn</p> <p><i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (1 extremely effective)</p> <p><i>Crataegus prunifolia</i> a compact variety (1 extremely effective)</p>	<p>Ideal hedge barrier, thorny and dense</p>	<p>White flowers in late spring followed by bright red berries⁵</p>	<p>7+m Tolerates a wide variety of conditions, including polluted and exposed sites^{5A}</p>	<p><i>Food and shelter</i>⁵</p> <p>Blackbird, Bluetits, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Crows, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Robin, Starlings, Waxwings etc feed on berries⁵</p> <p>Black Veined White Butterfly caterpillar food plant. Flowers also visited by adult butterflies seeking nectar: Brimstone, Chinese Character, Grey Dagger, Lackey, Lappet, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Light Emerald, Mottled Beauty, Mottled Pug, Swallowtailed, Vapourer and Yellow-tail Moth food plant. Small Eggar Moth food plant when hedges left untrimmed in summer⁵</p> <p>Host to innumerable insects⁵</p> <p>Small mammals e.g. mice, bank voles and foxes take berries⁵</p>

Plant and defence grade (1st-3rd)¹	Defensive Properties¹	Flowers / berries	Height¹, type, and how to plant	Wildlife benefits
<p>Common Holly</p> <p><i>Ilex aquifolium</i> (2 very effective defense)</p>	<p>Ideal for barrier plantings</p>	<p>Male and female flowers are on separate shrubs; for a female shrub to produce berries, it must be pollinated by a male growing nearby⁶</p>	<p>2m Grows in any soil and copes well with full sun or shade⁶</p>	<p><i>Food and shelter⁶</i></p> <p>Bees and bumblebees collect its nectar and pollen.</p> <p>Caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly eat buds and flowers.</p> <p>Birds: Thrushes, Robins, Dunnocks, finches etc. use it for nesting as it provides excellent protection.</p> <p>Blackbirds, thrushes etc. eat berries.</p> <p>Hedgehogs, small mammals, toads and slow worms hibernate in deep leaf litter that builds up beneath it⁶</p>

Plant and defence grade (1st-3rd)¹	Defensive Properties¹	Flowers / berries	Height¹, type, and how to plant	Wildlife benefits
<p>Oregon Grape</p> <p><i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> (3 effective defense)</p> <p><i>Mahonia media</i> (2 very effective defense)</p>	<p>Low growing shrub with spiny leaves</p>	<p>Clusters of bright yellow flowers are produced in spring, followed by spherical, blue-black berries⁷</p>	<p>1.5m Vigorous, suckering shrub that can cope with most soils and thrive in shady spots where many other plants succumb⁷</p>	<p><i>Food</i>⁷</p> <p>Nectar and pollen may be taken by Blackcaps, Bluetits and House Sparrows. Berries eaten by Blackbirds and Mistle Thrushes⁷</p> <p>Excellent early-flowering nectar source for bees and bumblebees.</p> <p>Bright-line Brown-eye, Cabbage and Peppered Moth caterpillar food plant⁷</p>
<p>New Zealand Holly</p> <p><i>Olearia macrodonta</i> (3 effective defense)</p>	<p>Shrub for exposed sites, with silver-toothed leaves</p>	<p>Clusters of white, fragrant, daisy-like flowerheads⁸</p>	<p>1.5m Sun-loving plant which is hardy in warmer parts of the country. It tolerates wind, and do well in towns⁸</p>	<p><i>Food</i>⁸</p> <p>Flowers are attractive to bees and many species of fly⁸</p>

Plant and defence grade (1st-3rd)¹	Defensive Properties¹	Flowers / berries	Height¹, type, and how to plant	Wildlife benefits
<p>Blackthorn, Sloe</p> <p><i>Prunus spinosa</i> (1 extremely effective)</p>	<p>Excellent dense defensive shrub or small tree.</p>	<p>Snowy white blossom appears in very early spring before the leaves and is followed in late autumn by the purplish-black fruits¹⁰</p>	<p>1.8m Very tough and tolerant of most soils and situations, including wet, exposed sites¹⁰</p>	<p><i>Food and Shelter⁹</i></p> <p>Flowering, blackthorn provides a valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees in spring. Its foliage is a food plant for the caterpillars of many moths, including the Lackey, Magpie, Common Emerald, Small Eggar, Swallow-tailed and Yellow-tailed. Also used by Black and Brown Hairstreak butterflies.</p> <p>Birds nest among the dense, thorny thickets, eat caterpillars and other insects from the leaves, and feast on the berries in autumn⁹</p>

Plant and defence grade (1st-3rd)¹	Defensive Properties¹	Flowers / berries	Height¹, type, and how to plant	Wildlife benefits
<p>Roses (2 very effective defense)</p> <p>Dog Rose <i>Rosa canina</i></p> <p>Field rose <i>Rosa arvensis</i></p> <p>It is illegal to plant <i>Rosa rugosa</i> in the wild or allow it to 'escape'!¹¹</p>	Dense and thorny vegetation	Flowers	2-9m dependent on variety. Old-fashioned varieties are fragrant and disease-resistant ¹¹	<p><i>Food and flowers</i>¹¹</p> <p>Hybrid tea roses, are also useful addition¹¹</p> <p>Fruits popular with birds.</p> <p>Wide range of insects attracted to the flowers including bees and butterflies¹¹</p>
<p>Gorse</p> <p><i>Ulex europaeus</i> (1 extremely effective)</p>	Superb barrier shrub	Small yellow flowers ¹²	1.5m Grows well on poor dry soils ¹	<p><i>Food and shelter</i>¹²</p> <p>Nest sites for birds, important for invertebrates¹²</p> <p>Refuge for birds in harsh weather. In flower for long periods - an important nectar source in early spring and early winter, when little else is in flower¹²</p>