

Natural Boundaries



I am sure we would all agree with Robert Frost who says in his poem Mending Wall "Good fences make good neighbours". However bare walls and fences can be unattractive and are not helpful to wildlife. This changes if they are clothed in plants which provide pollen, nectar and habitats and look good.

As you can see from the top three photos, in our garden our fences are covered with plants. We have lots of climbers, our favourite is a wonderful Clematis which has rampaged along the fence. We share it with our neighbour who shares with us her Clematis which flowers later. We have planted shrubs and trees along the boundaries which act like hedges.



We have a beech hedge on one boundary which we planted 22 years ago before we were hooked on wildlife gardening. It is attractive and reasonably useful for wildlife but if we were planting it now we would have a mixed hedge of native species like Hazel, Hawthorn, Spindle, Guelder Rose, Dogwood, Holly, Dog Rose, Wild

Privet, Blackthorn, Beech, Wayfaring Tree. I particularly like Spindle for its pink berries and Wayfaring Tree for its red and black berries. We have several sitting areas in the garden and we have made them feel private and sheltered by using variegated Ivy on trellis as in the photo opposite. In the photo below left you can see how we have used shrubs behind a sitting area to create a hedge which provides shelter and hides the shed behind it.



The photos below show the boundary between the vegetable plot and the rest of the garden. The trellis forming the boundary is covered in ornamental Ivy on both sides which provides a good habitat. On the garden side of the trellis is a dead hedge which provides a different habitat and forms a screen.



To quote Robert Frost again "Something there is that does not love a wall" unless of course it is covered in plants.

