



PRACTICALITY BROWN

HEDGE FACT SHEET: **AFTERCARE**

MAINTAINING YOUR INSTANT HEDGE

Elveden Instant Hedge™ has been prepared to the highest nursery standards and with your care will establish and flourish in its new location for many years to come. Practicality Brown were instrumental in developing this UK-grown hedge since 1989 and have prepared this information to act as a guide in maintaining your hedge in its transplanted position.

IRRIGATION

The amount of water available to your hedge roots depends on the water retention capacity of the soil (e.g. sandy or clay) and cannot be exactly planned. It is important that you observe the hedge foliage for signs of drought so that the watering regime can be adjusted, as necessary.

External signs of drought are that the foliage wilts and sometimes rolls or turns. Please note that it is also easy to over water your hedge and if you notice leaves turning yellow or unseasonal leaf drop then it is likely to be over watered; in which case immediate cut back on watering. If the soil surface looks dry but you have symptoms of over watering, then the moisture content needs to be checked 300 - 400mm below ground level. Dig a small hole beside the hedge rootstrip which will indicate the amount of water getting to the roots; if it's obviously wet, then the hedge is over-watered.

The following table shows you the recommended amount of water required per linear metre per week by a newly planted Elveden Instant Hedge. This should be continued until the hedge has established which is usually 24 months after planting, watering can then be reduced as required by the hedge.

Soil type	Weather Conditions	Weekly water requirement per metre	Ideal watering frequency
Clay loam	Average	10 - 15 litres	Every other day
Clay loam	Dry	15 - 20 litres	Every other day
Sandy loam	Average	15 - 20 litres	Every day
Sandy loam	Dry	20 - 25 litres	Every day

PLEASE NOTE This is a guide only and your observation of the hedge is most important.

FEEDING

We advise that you feed the instant hedge annually with a quality nutrient blend fertiliser and the best application time is early spring, although any time of the year is beneficial. Our own 20-20-10 Top Dress blend is suitable for all year round use on Elveden Instant Hedge; it is an 8 month fully coated controlled release fertiliser with a balanced analysis and an increased trace element package.

PRUNING

The best time of the year to prune a hedge depends on the type of plant. If the plant buds in the early spring, it can be trimmed late summer. If it blooms in the late spring, then later in the autumn or winter will be better. For non-flowering hedges, pruning can take place in the autumn or winter as well.

Whether using hand shears for smaller hedges or a powered hedge trimmer for larger hedges, you should ensure the equipment is sharp and well lubricated. Plan the trimming in advance, removing any obstacles on the ground before starting and think about the shape you would like to create; a formal, clipped hedge or a more shrub-like and natural.

If you have any questions on aftercare of your hedge, please call us on 01753 652022