



PRACTICALITY BROWN

FACT SHEET: TOPIARY

We can supply a range of topiary to add some structure and decorative interest to your garden.

Topiary

Topiary has been used historically in many different European gardening styles, from early Roman gardens through to modern day. Topiary is the art of training plants (typically evergreen shrubs and trees) into intricate or stylized shapes and forms, which can be the culmination of years of work. Plants trained in this way will require regular maintenance to maintain the form and structure with topiary shears or hedge-cutters; suckers and unwanted branches can also be removed. The term may also be used more loosely to describe a number of garden features that rely on the close clipping and shaping of plants, including:

- **Parterre:** A style of hedging associated with lavish Italian renaissance gardens with beautifully ornate clipped box hedges swirling around them in mirrored patterns or geometric designs.
- **Mazes and labyrinths:** The Normans introduced pleasure gardens with mazes and labyrinths formed from clipped plants; there are some modern examples in private and public gardens today.
- **Knot gardens:** Formed from different coloured box planted in crisscrossing patterns so that it appeared that the ribbons of hedges had been tied up in knots, these became popular in Tudor times.
- **Cloud Trees:** This is a Japanese method of training trees and shrubs into shapes resembling clouds.
- From box balls to yew 'peacocks', topiary is versatile and striking and can be thought of as living architecture; there is always room for a clipped masterpiece!

Evergreens enable the design to remain a permanent feature throughout the seasons. Typically Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) and Yew (*Taxus baccata*) are used; however other evergreens such as Privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*) and Holly (*Ilex*) can be used. In general, the more complex the topiary, the longer will have taken to create and consequently it costs more.



Example of prices

| Variety | Type | Size | Price |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------|
| Box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> | Cube | 40cm x 40cm x 40cm | £75 |
| Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i> | Ball | 60cm high | £285 |
| Box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> | Spiral | 120cm high | £330 |

NB Prices exclude VAT at 20% and delivery, call us for a detailed quote.

www.pracbrown.co.uk 01753 652022

