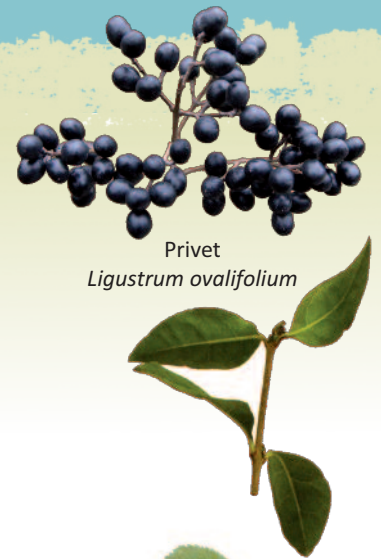




Ivy
Hedera helix



Laurel
Prunus laurocerasus



Privet
Ligustrum ovalifolium



Dog Rose
Rosa canina

FSC quick guide to hedgerows

There are around 500,000 miles of hedgerows in the UK, stretching through urban parks, gardens and field boundaries. These provide home or refuge for wildlife.

Small mammals may be burrowing under the hedge, birds nest within it and a whole host of insects and other small invertebrates may depend on it for food and shelter.

Leaves provide meals for herbivores big and small, while spring and summer flowers provide pollen and nectar that is eaten by many insects. In late summer and autumn the fruits and seeds ripen providing another meal for birds and small mammals such as squirrels and mice.

The juicy fruits are often shiny and brightly coloured to attract birds. They eat the fleshy fruit but the seeds get spread in the bird droppings. This helps the plant disperse its seeds to new areas where they may be able to grow.

Squirrels and mice have strong teeth to gnaw tough nuts. Beech and hazel trees nuts are often collected and stored for winter food, but many get forgotten so have a chance to grow.

Take care – some fruits and seeds are poisonous to humans!



Blackthorn
Prunus spinosa



Holly
Ilex aquifolium



Hawthorn
Crataegus monogyna



Beech
Fagus sylvatica



Hazel
Corylus avellana



Want to find out more about wildlife?

FSC has a large range of wildlife guides covering all types of wildlife from birds and butterflies to flowers and trees. They are loved by beginners, enthusiasts and experts alike.

field-studies-council.org/shop

