

Hedge Trimming Tips



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STIHL®



Precise trimming at chest height

- These hedge trimmers, designed especially for the care of parks, are also ideal for use in private gardens. Their main application is the trimming of waist-high to chest-high hedges, since their handy design permits very precise trimming. You can also carry out demanding shaping cuts with these trimmers.
- The powerful hedge trimmers with petrol engines allow you to move freely along the hedge. These trimmers, which need no cables, are the first choice when power and cutting quality are required. The electric hedge trimmers have quiet-running electric motors and are thus particularly suitable for use in residential areas.



Trimming technique for chest-high hedges

When trimming the top of the hedge, hold the cutting blade at an angle of 0° to 10° with respect to the horizontal. The cut twigs and leaves can be removed with a scything movement of the blade.





Trimming technique for chest-high hedges

- First cut both sides of the hedge vertically, using a swinging motion of the trimmer and making use of both sides of the blade.





Greater range and for high hedges

- Long-reach hedge trimmers are available for tasks where a larger working radius or height is necessary. They are the ideal supplement to conventional hedge trimmers, since they permit you to reach parts of the hedge not accessible with these. This makes the trimming of high or very wide hedges faster and easier.
- They also make the use of ladders or scaffolding unnecessary, since you can reach to the full height of the hedge from the ground. For overhead work, or for trimming at a distance, the heads of the long-reach hedge trimmers can be adjusted to any desired angle for individual use.



Easier work with long-reach hedge trimmers

- The angled cutting blade permits overhead trimming of particularly high hedges.





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Easier work with long-reach hedge trimmers

- The long-reach hedge trimmers also allow to reach over flower beds or ditches to trim hedges on the other side easily and safely.





Easier work with long-reach hedge trimmers

- For cutting vertically at a distance, the cutting blade is set to the appropriate angle. For close work, it is set to the straight position.





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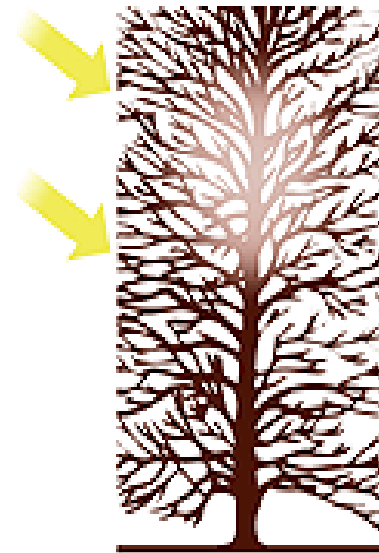
Easier work with long-reach hedge trimmers

- A good tool. Matched to the task in hand, is indispensable for anyone who wants to keep their hedges and topiaries in good shape. Hedge trimmers and long-reach hedge trimmers help you to cut your hedge, regardless of whether it is chest high or higher

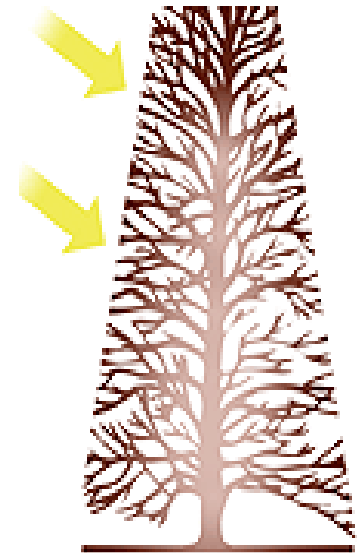


How to trim your hedge

■ After a hedge has been planted, it is important to start trimming it to the desired shape while the plants are still young. However, you should leave the main stem of each plant uncut until the hedge reaches the desired height. All other branches should be cut back by half their length. In order to prevent the lower branches from losing their leaves, you should cut your hedge so that the sides slope inwards from bottom to top. If this is not done, the lower part of the hedge will not receive enough light.



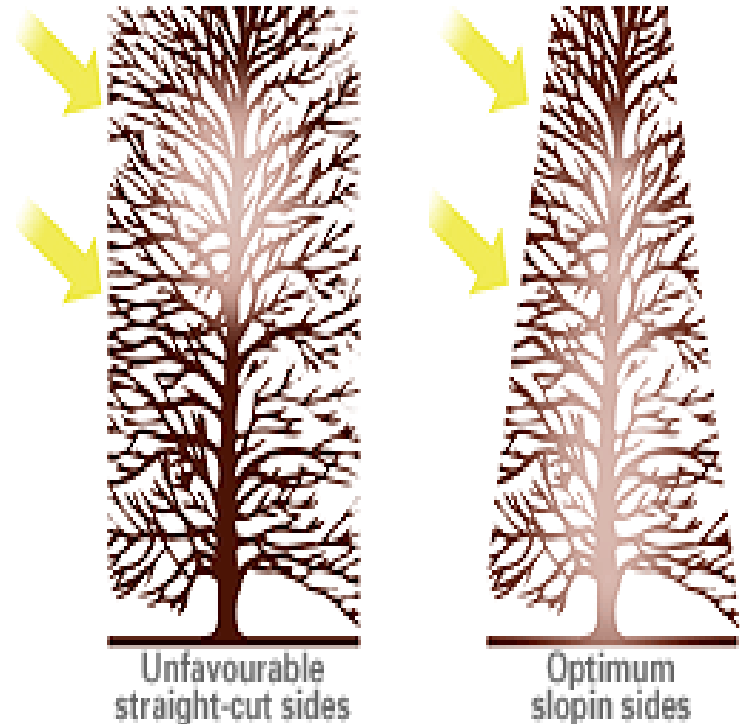
Unfavourable
straight-cut sides



Optimum
sloping sides



■ Once the hedge is fully grown, it must be trimmed regularly. We recommend tying a string along the planned cutting line in order to guide you so that the cut is straight. If your hedge does get out of shape, the only solution in many cases is to cut it back rigorously, but this cannot be done on all types of hedges. Conifers, in particular, react negatively if they are cut back into the old wood.





- Hedges consisting of plants which lose their leaves in the winter and privet, which keeps its leaves, should receive their main cut in winter, while the vegetation is resting. A second cut can be made at the beginning of August (not before, since this would disturb any birds nesting in the hedge).
- Evergreen hedges and hedges consisting of conifers should be trimmed just before the new shoots appear in the spring. Alternatively, they can be trimmed in the autumn. Only the new shoots should be trimmed, since this encourages more of the buds on the remaining wood to develop into twigs. Trimming in this manner results in a bushy hedge with provides good screening.



Shaping topiaries

- Densely growing plants, such as yews or box-trees are best for so-called topiaries. Thick branches, which divide into finer and finer twigs, form the main axes of the desired shape. In order to train the branches in the desired directions, you can fix the flexible twigs with wire.
- Geometrical shapes such as pyramids are best trimmed by tying string along the desired edges, or by using a wooden frame. Fit the frame around the plant and cut off all protruding shoots. In this way, you can achieve many different shapes, such as cubes, globes or pyramids:
You can also trim plants with longer trunks into decorative shapes, making them an eye-catcher in your garden. Pot plants are particularly suitable for trimming into geometrical shapes:



- For more unusual shapes, such as animals, you should make a cage out of wire netting and fit this around the bush. You can then easily cut along the surface of the wire netting. It is important to use a handy hedge trimmer which provides an exact cut. All shoots which project from the cage should be trimmed off several times per year in order to encourage a more bushy growth. The time needed to achieve the desired shape depends on the size and the growth rate of the bush. Really impressive topiaries generally need several years to reach the desired effect.



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