

## WHILST BURGLARY INTO HOMES HAS REDUCED... ...SHED CRIME HAS RISEN SUBSTANTIALLY

- Is your shed secure?
- Are valuable items properly marked?
- Is there anything left out in the garden that could be used to break in with?
- Are garden ornaments secured, marked and photographed?
- Are valuable garden tools and mowers secured?
- Is the boundary secure?
- Is the area well lit?

### Useful web sites

[www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)

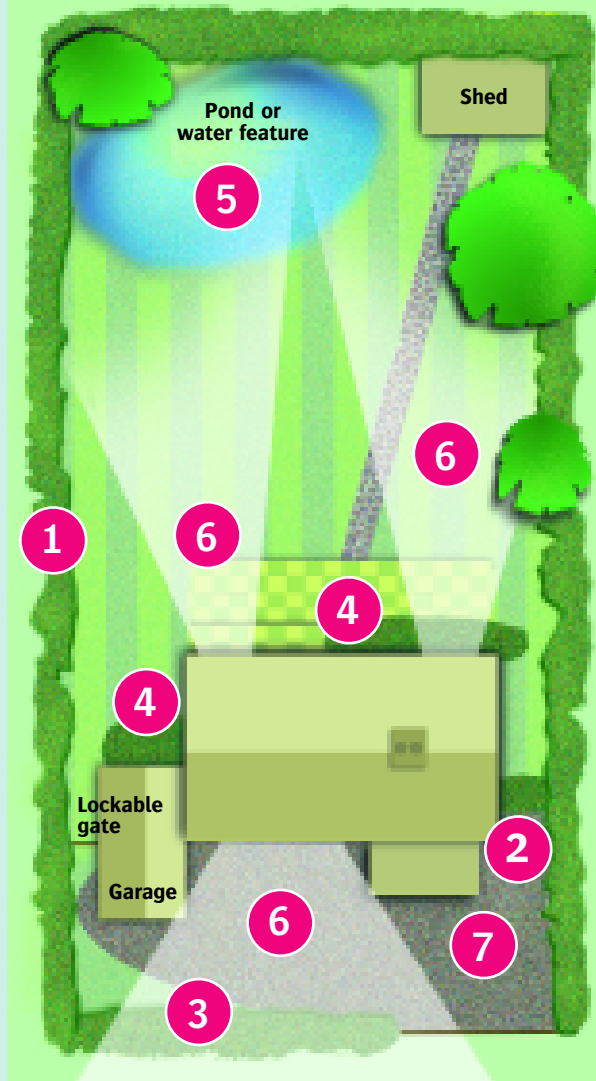
[www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

[www.securedcarparks.com](http://www.securedcarparks.com)

[www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**DON'T BE  
A VICTIM  
TO GARDEN  
CRIME**

### Typical Garden Planting Scheme



### Suggestions for Planting

- 1 and 2 Tall prickly shrubs such as Berberis Julianae or Ilex.
- 3 Low shrubs so that natural surveillance will not be impeded.
- 4 Dense shrubs such as Berberis Stenophylla and Mahonia.
- 5 Water features can also form part of a defensive boundary.
- 6 Good lighting to front and rear, (can be operated by sensors.)
- 7 Lay gravel, to hear people or vehicles approaching.

## What is Crimestoppers?

Crimestoppers Trust is a Registered Charity designed to help in the detection, and hence the reduction, of crime. It is a crime information collection operation which enables anyone with information about any crime and who wishes to remain anonymous to pass that information to the police. This is done by calling the national Crimestoppers number

**0800 555 111**

### The success of Crimestoppers is largely due to these fundamental points:

#### Anonymity:

All callers remain totally anonymous therefore preventing any further involvement. This is particularly important if they are reporting information about someone they know or live nearby.

#### A Reward:

Callers may be entitled to a reward if the information they provide leads to someone being arrested and charged with a crime. Rewards are available, paid without prejudice to the caller's anonymity.

Crimestoppers Trust is the national umbrella organisation behind the scheme and is the only charity helping to solve crime. Under direction from the Trust the scheme is run primarily by volunteers on a regional basis.



### For more information please contact:

The Crimestoppers Co-ordinator,  
Gloucestershire Constabulary Police Headquarters  
No 1 Waterwells, Waterwells Business Park,  
Quedgeley, Glos GL2 2AA  
Tel: 01452 752161

Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity. Number 1108687 (England). Money is needed to continue marketing Gloucestershire Crimestoppers as well as pay out rewards. Free advertising, printing, sponsorship and cash donations are always gratefully received.

# Defensive Planting



**Nature's  
way to  
beat the  
burglar**



# Defensive Planting - nature's way to beat the burglar

The ever-increasing popularity and sophistication of gardening has not gone unnoticed by the criminal. Garden crime is a reality. According to police statistics, the most likely items to be stolen are mowers, strimmers, chain saws, hedge trimmers, garden furniture and plants. Nature herself provides one of the best solutions to many garden crimes.

With careful thought and planning you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of garden crime, whilst at the same time creating an attractive garden.

Take your time to read this leaflet, and take note of the carefully selected plants. For instance you can create an impenetrable hedge, which looks far more attractive than security fencing but is just as effective. Planting prickly shrubs around vulnerable windows can also serve as a deterrent to the burglar.

**By careful planning you can produce a beautiful garden and reduce the risk of being the next victim of GARDEN CRIME.**

## Top Ten Tips

### 1. Sheds

Sheds and Outbuildings usually contain valuable items that might either be stolen or used as a tool to gain entry to the house. Check how vulnerable your shed is and make it more secure. Metal grills over the windows, reinforced hinges and locks are a worthwhile investment. Consider securing valuable items inside using security cables or chains with robust padlocks. Thieves do not like to hang about - the more obstacles you put in the way, the less likely they will be to bother.

### 2. Garden Equipment

Equipment marked indelibly and boldly will be less of a target for a thief. It will identify it to the owner and the thief will have to spend time trying to remove the marking. Don't make the mistake that many gardeners make, leaving equipment out whilst popping in the house for a cup of tea, only to return to find your mower gone, and a half cut lawn! You may only be gone for a minute, but your mower will have gone forever.

### 3. Lighting

Good lighting around the property will enhance your garden, extend its use into the evening, and be a major deterrent to the thief. The best type to install is low level lighting on a dusk to dawn sensor which will give good illumination, is cheap to run and is on all night. Security lighting operated on movement detectors can increase the fear of crime. This comes on and off during high winds, when trees sway or when animals walk past. It can also be annoying to your neighbours.

## 4. Plants

Plants and trees can be very attractive to the thief, and difficult to secure. If you are using plant pots, buy the heaviest you can. Pots can be secured to the ground using a variety of methods from strong glues to bolts through the patio. Expensive plants can be secured in the ground using wire and pegs around the root ball. These are hidden from view when planting is completed, but make the plant very difficult to remove. Expensive plants should be planted where they can be seen from the house or by neighbours.

## 5. Gravel

Thieves don't like to be heard. Crunchy gravel on the approach to the house which gives away their presence is ideal.

## 6. Water

A water feature not only looks great in the garden but a pond can also form a barrier to prevent a thief from getting to a vulnerable shed or house window.

## 7. Front Garden

The general rule for the front of the house is to keep boundary fences and hedges low to allow as much natural surveillance as possible from neighbours and passing pedestrians and traffic. Keep shrubs and trees well pruned to avoid any hiding places.

## 8. Rear Garden

The rear garden should have a secure boundary and gates which should be of sufficient height to make scaling them difficult. A thief hates to be cornered and will always be looking for escape routes. The traditional country hedge provides an attractive and impenetrable boundary. Prickly shrubs planted along an existing fence are effective and attractive but may take a long time to grow and thicken up.

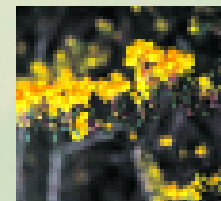
## 9. Garden Furniture

Patio furniture, hammocks and parasols are stolen from gardens every year. Take time to mark the items so they can be identified if they are stolen, thereby making them less attractive to the thief. Tables and benches can be secured to the patio using bolts. Any items that can be put away easily should be stored in a secure shed or garage (but leave room for the car!). Planters, statues, staddle stones and garden ornaments are very valuable and often the target of thieves. Photographs of the items will help the police identify them if they are stolen. Securing them to a concrete base using metal pins is effective.

## 10. Defensive Planting

Nature's own way to reduce crime. Criminals do not like climbing through prickly plants and hedges. They know that a small item of ripped clothing or blood can help the police identify them. The list on the next page is not exhaustive but includes some of the best plants to protect your garden.

### BERBERIS STENOPHYLLA (BARBERRY)



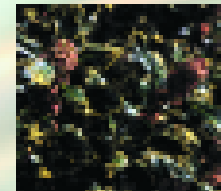
**Growth:** Medium sized shrub, arching habit, evergreen.  
**Flowers:** Yellow in April/May, blue/black berries in Autumn.  
**Uses:** Hedging or border shrub.  
**Spike Rating:** Excellent foliage and stems, well armed with spines.  
(Other varieties of Berberis also available)

### BERBERIS JULIANAE (BARBERRY)



**Growth:** Medium sized evergreen shrub.  
**Flowers:** Yellow in late Spring, young growth has coppery tints.  
**Uses:** Hedging or border shrub.  
**Spike Rating:** Excellent prickly foliage, very spiny stems.  
(Other varieties of Berberis also available)

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM 'FEROX ARGENTEA' (HEDGEHOG HOLLY)



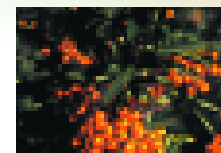
**Growth:** Medium/tall sized shrub, evergreen, male plants - no berries  
**Flowers:** Not a prominent feature but interesting colourful foliage.  
**Uses:** Hedging or border shrub.  
**Spike Rating:** Very good, tightly packed spines on sides and top of leaves.  
(Other varieties of holly also available)

### MAHONIA MEDIA 'WINTER SUN'



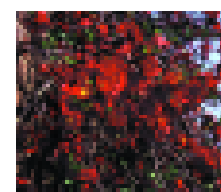
**Growth:** Medium sized shrub, attractive evergreen leaves.  
**Flowers:** Erect racemes of scented yellow flowers in winter.  
**Uses:** Border shrub.  
**Spike Rating:** Good, spiny edged foliage.  
(Other varieties of Mahonia also available)

### PYRACANTHA ORANGE GLOW (FIRETHORN)



**Growth:** Medium/large evergreen shrub.  
**Flowers:** White in early summer followed by orange autumn berries.  
**Uses:** Hedging, border or wall shrub.  
**Spike Rating:** Excellent very spiny stems.  
(Other varieties of Pyracantha also available)

### CHAENOMELES X SUPERBA 'CRIMSON AND GOLD (JAPONICA)



**Growth:** Medium size spreading shrub.  
**Flowers:** Cup shaped red petals with golden stamens, quince fruits.  
**Uses:** Hedging, border or wall shrub.  
**Spike Rating:** Very good, well spined stems.  
(Other varieties of Chaenomeles also available)

## More Defensive Plants

**Shrub: RUBUS THIBETANUS** - **Comments:** White stemmed Bramble, fern like silvery leaves, pink flowers, clumps of attractive white stems.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       |                |                           | ✓                     |                       |           |                      | ✓                   |

**Shrub: PYRACANTHA** various varieties - **Comments:** Firethorn, can be kept neat by pruning.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       | ✓              | ✓                         | ✓                     |                       | ✓         | ✓                    | ✓                   |

**Shrub: BERBERIS VERRUCULOSA** - **Comments:** Compact, slow growing shiny green leaves with white undersides, yellow flowers.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       | ✓              |                           |                       | ✓                     | ✓         | ✓                    | ✓                   |

**Shrub: BERBERIS DARWINII** - **Comments:** Bright orange flowers with red tints. A fine flowering shrub.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       | ✓              |                           |                       | ✓                     | ✓         | ✓                    | ✓                   |

**Shrub: BERBERIS BUXIFOLIA** - **Comments:** Orange - yellow flowers, purple grape-like berries.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       | ✓              |                           |                       | ✓                     | ✓         | ✓                    | ✓                   |

**Shrub: CHANOMELES** various varieties - **Comments:** The Japonica or Japanese Quince, saucer-shaped spring flowers can be kept neat by regular pruning.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       | ✓              | ✓                         | ✓                     |                       |           |                      | ✓                   |

**Shrub: HIPPOPHAE RHAMNOIDES** - **Comments:** Sea Buckhorn, white flowers orange berries. Makes a tough hedge.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       | ✓              |                           | ✓                     |                       |           | ✓                    | ✓                   |

**Shrub: ROSA RUGOSA** - **Comments:** Rhamanas Rose, dense prickly stems. Excellent hedging plant.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       | ✓              |                           | ✓                     |                       |           | ✓                    | ✓                   |

**Shrub: CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA** - **Comments:** Common Hawthorn, May or Quickthorn. Makes a superb, wildlife friendly hedge.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       | ✓              |                           | ✓                     |                       |           | ✓                    | ✓                   |

**Shrub: ULEX EUROPAEUS PLENA** - **Comments:** Double flowered Gorse, very prickly. Makes a tough hedge.

| Flowers | Fruits/Berries | Suitable for walls/fences | Height above 2 metres | Height below 2 metres | Evergreen | Suitable for hedging | OK in partial shade |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓       |                |                           | ✓                     |                       | ✓         | ✓                    |                     |