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CHILDREN'S COMPETITION RULES

These competitions are open, free, to children of 5 to 12 years of age, of every reader of this magazine resident in Great Britain and Ireland except employees (and their advertising agents, their printers, etc.) directly concerned with the contest. One attempt only may be made by each child. Competitors submitting the entries we judge suitable for each age group, will receive prizes as listed on page 78. Entries will be examined and it is a condition of entry that the decision of the judges, as accepted by the Editor, is accepted as final and binding in all matters arising from these competitions and no correspondence is allowed. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries delayed or damaged in the post or otherwise, or that arrive after the closing date, 1st September, 1972. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. No claims are necessary. All winners will be notified of success immediately, and the results of competitions in this issue will be published in the September, 1972, issue of LIVING. A full list will be available on application to LIVING, The House, Elm Street, London WC1X 0BP. Enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope. All entries become the property of LIVING and cannot be returned.

Young Living Competition Winners November 1971 issue

Under-sevens winners: Beverly Ann Robinson of Manchester (age 6); Ian Stewart of Maidenhead (age 6); Kate Homewood of Leighton Buzzard (age 4); Rachel Penney of New Eltham (age 4); Katie Jones of Littlehampton (age 6); Jeremy Barnard of Winchmore Hill (age 6). Seven-to-elevens: Christine Teller of Backwell (age 10); Peter Kapp of Sandbach (age 10); Philip Howarth of Burnley (age 11); Jill Forrest of York (age 11); Katherine Mutch of Scunthorpe (age 7); Alison Riddell of Edinburgh (age 7). Full list obtainable from LIVING.

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AROUND DOTTED LINES

From My Garden by H.E. Bates



If you are looking for something different in hedges—read on...

Hedging Yourself In

Some time ago two friends asked for my advice in the matter of subjects for hedges. It was something I had never given much thought to. I have only one hedge in my garden—a 40-year-old *Lonicera nitida* still showing signs of prolonged war-time neglect, so that it has a certain half-drunken elephantine appearance. It is also so thick and woody that its top forms a platform along which a regal pair of old gentlemen pheasants strut in all their brilliance with superb, almost arrogant, dignity and pride.

When at last I got down to serious thoughts about hedges I had several surprises. The chief of these was the truly enormous number of subjects that may be used and their infinite variations in size, colouring, foliage and flower. I have a catalogue listing more than 100 different hedging subjects both evergreen and deciduous, as well as another 30 or 40 varieties of roses also highly suited and desirable for hedges.

Of these 100 varieties no less than half are flowering hedges, which was the very thing, in fact, that my friends were looking for. In addition to this double value they also wanted a hedge, or hedges, that wouldn't block out the beauties of their Cotswold countryside and wouldn't need a 15ft ladder when it came to trimming. This is the bugbear about hedges; they can make a devil of a lot of work—but the average Englishman likes to have some screen between himself and his neighbours!

Now clearly it is impossible for me to list all the hedging plants, however beautiful, that may be used, so I propose to confine myself to just a few that are exceptional and uncommon but at the same time neither difficult nor expensive. If I were planting a new hedge what would be my first choice? Unhesitatingly, I think, the Portugal Laurel. Evergreen, with dark bay-like leaves, handsome, well-behaved, having white flowers in June and grape-like purple berries in autumn, this excellent hedge needs only light pruning to keep it in order. It is a splendid, useful aristocrat.

It is some few years since I first saw *Eleagnus ebbingei* being used as a hedge on Lake Maggiore. What a splendid hedge this lovely silver-green shrub, so beloved of flower arrangers, can make. Its golden-green sister, the exquisite *E. pungens aureo-variegata*, would make an even better one. Both should be pruned, not clipped, into shape. I also like the form of *Prunus pissardii* called Blaze, with its lovely warm purple-red foliage. This can be shaped into a low hedge or allowed to develop into an informal one. Grey or silver is a desirable colour for a low hedge and nothing will provide it better than lavender, of which the variety Hidcote is quite the best. Second only to it is our old friend *Santolina*—child's play from cuttings and easily trimmed into compact shape each spring.

Some of the berberis family make first-rate hedges and I particularly like *B. thumbergii Atropurpurea Nana*—purple and dwarf. But *B. Darwinii* is also excellent, a fire of brightest orange in spring.

And what about the pittosporums, with their dainty crinkled fresh pale green foliage? Long ago I was assured they were tender, but two trees of mine have survived ten winters, including that of 1963—and if a plant will survive that it will survive anything.

Roses for hedges are really too numerous to deal with here, but I confess to a secret love for that old hybrid Bourbon, *Rosa Zephirine Drouhin*, thornless and pink-flowered. Another unusual subject I would certainly try is the variegated form of *Viburnum tinus*, known to us all as *Laurustinus*; nor would I despise the golden variegated laurel. And hedges I wouldn't plant? Not *Lonicera nitida* again, nor *Cupressus macrocarpa* which, if clipped, will die on you in the first severe winter. But if you do want a cupressus hedge, *C. leylandii* is the answer and is the fastest growing of the lot. □□

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