

Hedges: A Brief History and the Minnesota Landscape
Arboretum Hedge Collection





Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Hedge Display



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Introduction



Frederiksberg Palace, Denmark shown in these two images is a baroque palace with many hedges, large and small.



It is hard to imagine a traditional historical garden that does not have a hedge. From early Roman gardens, Italian and French parterres and walled bosques to the garden rooms of Sissinghurst and Hidcote, hedges add structure, architectural lines and provide a protective backdrop for flowers and humans. Hedges were originally planted to protect property, control animals and often provided a source of coppiced wood for heating. From functional to classic garden elements, hedges can outlive humans. Although formal hedges in the U. S. may be decreasing due to their high maintenance, recent research shows hedges provide critical ecosystem services especially in urban areas (Blanusa, 2019). This article provides a brief history of hedge displays in the U.S., especially at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and a glimpse at the cultural significance of these iconic landscape plants.



Villa Gamberaia in Florence, Italy is famous for its 'hanging garden' of clipped hedges that appear to be hanging in space.

PART I

MAIN BODY

1

A Short History of Hedges



Enclosures made from plants were critical for safety and fortification for early civilizations while keeping some things in (animals) and others out (enemies and thieves). Property delineation was first defined by hedgerows that incorporated trees and evolved into the art and science of hedge-laying, still practiced in England and Europe.



As people became more civilized, the need for walls and thorny hedges diminished. Romans used decorative landscape hedges as found in Fishbourne Palace in Sussex, England, show above. Hedges moved beyond hedgerows for land management to an element of garden design that became a classic, essential feature of gardens throughout the world.



The Queen's Garden, Kew Gardens, London.

Great gardens such as Versailles in France and Het Loo in the Netherlands used low hedges for parterres and high hedges for garden rooms to show how man had conquered nature and to impress everyone who saw these gardens. Formal gardens were the norm for all European rulers, large or small.

From a practical aspect as common land ownership evolved, there remained a need for land boundaries. In America Samuel Deane noted in 1790, “live hedges were preferable to fences and ‘dead hedges’ (wattle [fences](#) using woven plant material) because the living plants created a ‘perpetual fence’ whose posts never decayed and stakes never failed” (History of American Landscape Architecture Contributors, 2021). A.J. Downing (1838) reflected on living hedges: “The advantages of live [fences](#) are, great durability, imperviousness to man and beast, a trifling expense in keeping in order, and the great beauty and elegance of their appearance. Harmonizing in color with the pleasant green of the [lawn](#) and fields, they may, without (like board [fences](#)) being offensive to the eye, be brought, in many places, quite near to the dwelling-house.”

John Evelyn (1620-1706) author of [Sylva](#), one of the first books on forestry and the value of trees, commented on his holly hedge after a visit by Peter the Great:

“Is there under heaven a more glorious and refreshing object of the kind, than an impregnable hedge of about four hundred foot in length, nine foot high, and five in diameter; which I can shew in my now ruin’d gardens at Say’s-Court, (thanks to the Czar of Moscovy) at any time of the year, glitt’ring with its arm’d and varnish’d leaves?”

The taller standards at orderly distances, blushing with their natural coral: It mocks at the rudest assaults of the weather, beasts, or hedge-breakers."

Hedges were an integral feature of the Arts and Crafts gardens in the 20th century. It is difficult to imagine Gertrude Jekyll or Thomas Mawson's designs without the long dark green evergreen hedges to back the flower borders, or define the garden rooms that were so much a part of garden designs of this era. The dark hedges that define Sissinghurst's garden rooms are often not one, but two, thus creating a double hedge to further strengthen the design. Mawson lamented the antipathy of hedges and felt opportunities should be sought for planting them; hedges furnish "an extended base to the architectural scheme and give one a feeling of shelter and protection for winds and harsh weather" (Mawson, 1900).



Sissinghurst's famous rondel hedge above and lower double yew hedge divide garden rooms.



Chatsworth's serpentine hedge is the deciduous beech, *Fagus sylvatica*, which creates interest even in winter with its persistent reddish foliage. Planted in 1953 to give prominence to the bronze head of the 6th Duke of Devonshire, it took 20 years of growth before the hedge looked right.

As plant breeding advanced in the mid-20th century, new colorful and shorter plant selections became available for hedges. And to showcase new plants botanical gardens and arboreta increased their collections with hedge displays such as those planted at the Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Experimental Farm in 1889, the Morton Arboretum in 1934, and Arnold Arboretum in 1937.

2

Arnold Arboretum and Morton Arboretum Hedge Collections



“A garden without a hedge is like a picture without a frame.”
Noel Proctor, *Garden Hedges*, 1960



Donald Wyman, horticulturist at Arnold Arboretum, 1952.

Arnold Arboretum Hedge Collection

Donald Wyman, horticulturist at the Arnold Arboretum from 1936-1970 was largely responsible for the Hedge Collection at this early and very influential arboretum. In 1938 the collection contained 115 species (Arnold Arboretum, 2011).



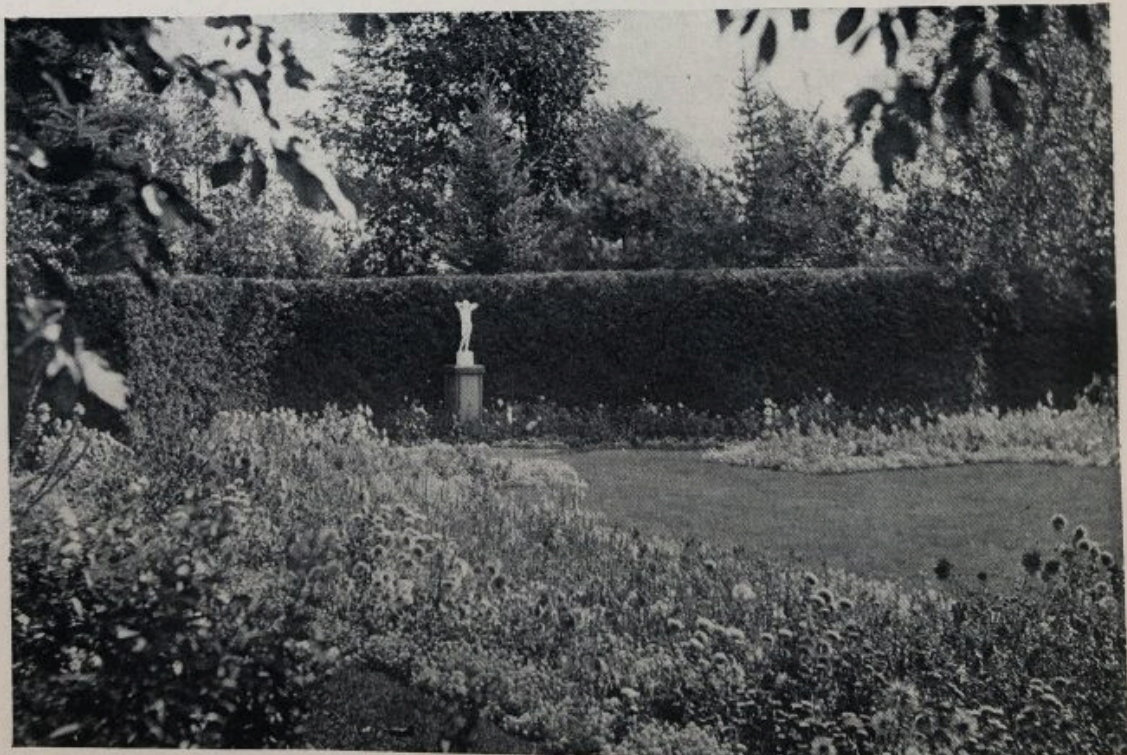
Arnold Arboretum Hedge Collection.

Image Credits: Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library of Harvard University copyright President and Fellows of of Harvard College. Arnold Arboretum Archives.

Donald Wyman could be called the Father of the American Hedge with his 1938 book *Hedges, Screens and Windbreaks* that documented plants suitable for hedges as well as showing their versatile uses. He felt hedges were a “subject of absorbing interest.” So popular were hedges that F.F. Rockwell noted in the book’s introduction that “hedges in one form or another are to be found in a greater percentage of home landscape plantings than any other feature. The hedge and the lawn are the common denominators of ornamental planting.” Wyman included in his book 25 individual lists of hedge plants for specific purposes including protective hedges, shade hedges, screens, narrow columnar areas, informal, and hedges for specific geographical regions of the U.S. Wyman felt that hedges made the landscape more attractive and improved the setting by adding beauty as well as specific landscape functions.



A perfect example of how well-placed clipped hedges, in both mass and texture, can supplement the architecture of the house.



And such a hedge is, of course, the ideal background for garden statuary.

Illustrations from Donald Wyman's 1938 book entitled *Hedges, Screens and Windbreaks*.

From a design standpoint, Wyman defined many uses for hedges: to add interest in designs, separate garden areas into rooms, define utilitarian areas, create architectural unity between the garden and the house, or supplement the architecture of the house, provide edging for road, drive, create the 'ideal background' for statuary, and other focal points, give a 'wall-like texture' used to increase the apparent depth of a garden or property: a trick of perspective as well as to add interest, shield for privacy from street or roadway, or a wind shelter. Hedges could be a background, to "relieve the monotony of a level surface", provide shelter and privacy for tender plants perhaps roses, enclose a patio or deck to create the sense of added privacy. Even "the entrance to the house may be given added character and dignity by the well-planned use of hedge material" Wyman (1938) noted. Hedges had endless possibilities for the home landscape in Wyman's view.

Although very practical, Wyman was following what many other designers had done before him including Gertrude Jekyll, Vita Sackville West, and Thomas Mawson. In 1957 Wyman wrote a 20-year assessment of Arnold Arboretum's hedge collection noting "82 of the 115 hedges were alive and growing well". The Arnold Arboretum's hedge collection was removed in 1997.

Morton Arboretum Hedge Collection



Morton Hedge Collection 1940s. Image credit: Morton Arboretum.

The Morton Arboretum in Chicago, IL has the "oldest, continuous hedge display among public gardens in the United States." Initially planted in 1934 (3 years ahead of the Arnold Arboretum and 33 years before the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum) as the "great formal landscape in the European tradition" the display includes 30 sheared and 28 unsheared hedges (Morton Arboretum, 2021). The display underwent a rehabilitation in 1994 on its 60th Anniversary; "one of the least-used elements in

the modern landscape is the sheared hedge...and yet, in formal landscapes, sheared hedges remain one of the classic elements" (Mchaffney, 1996).

3

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Hedge Collection



On the southern edge of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (MLA) just before the new Eastern Drive sits a 1½ acre 50+ year old living display showing how hedges grow in Minnesota. The sign reads simply “Hedges”.



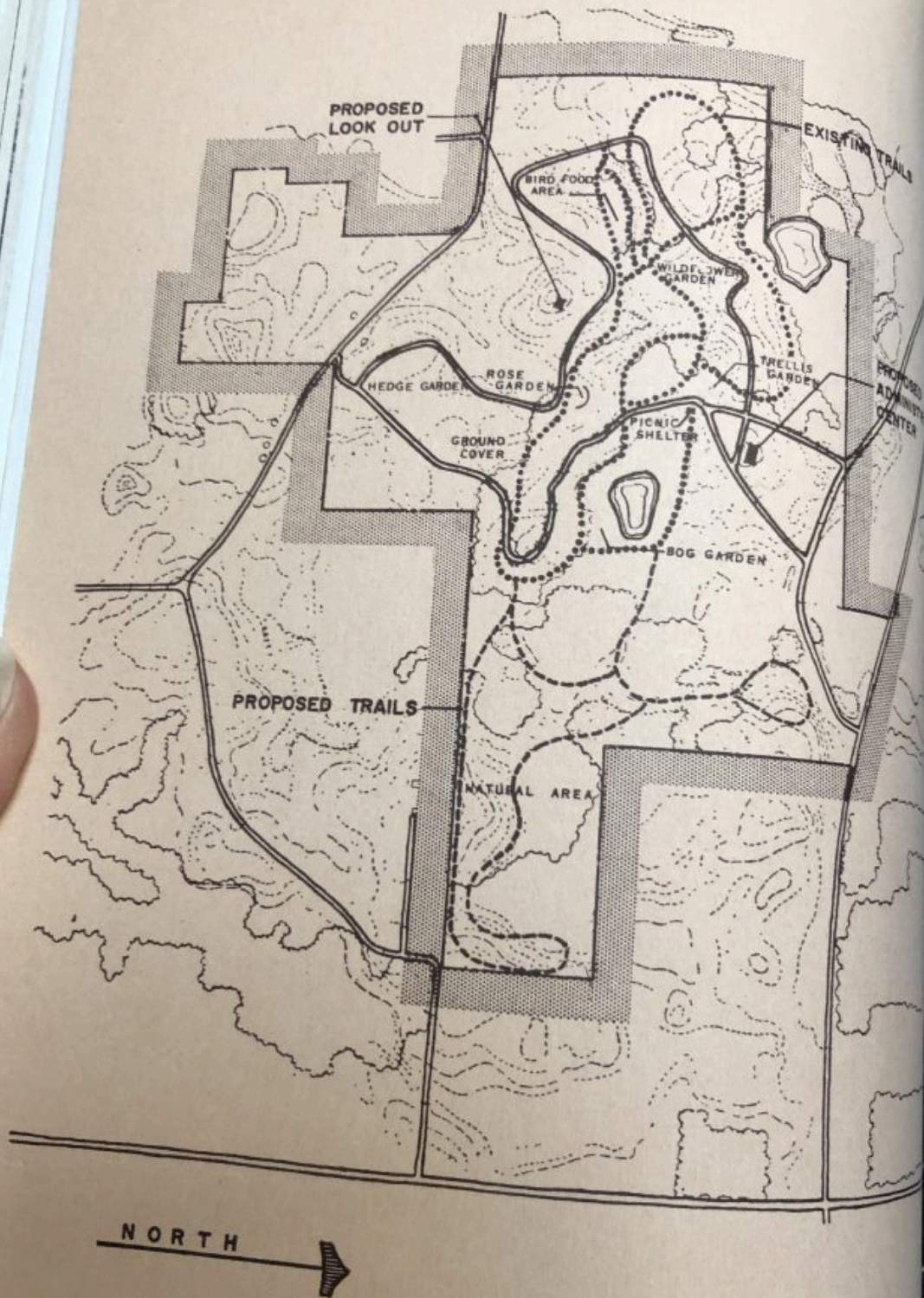
In 1958, the founding year of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, when formal trialing of plants in cold climates began, a hedge collection or display was one of the first things Dr. Leon Snyder, founding director, mentioned as being planted (Anonymous, 1960). No doubt Snyder knew the work of Donald Wyman at the Arnold Arboretum and had likely visited and seen the hedge display there or at the Morton Arboretum in Chicago.

There is no formal statement of purpose for the Hedge Display, however it seems implied that the purpose aligns very well with the overall mission of the Arboretum: to determine which plants could grow and evaluate their performance in USDA Hardiness Zone 4. In consultation with curators David Stevenson and Nick Kreevich, and Andersen Horticultural Librarian Kathy Allen, it was determined that 1967 is most likely the year the Hedge Display was planted. Peter Moe, current MLA Director noted “formal hedges were more prevalent in home, commercial and public landscapes in the mid-1960’s and the collection was planted to show which plants were the best for formal hedges when properly pruned.

There were fewer compact forms of many species at that time and many people tended to try to keep large plants such as Amur Maple as medium sized hedges”.

The first annual MLA report published in April 1961 mentions a list of Special Gardens and Collections “projects which require a relatively small initial investment but which require annual financial assistance in their maintenance”. A “hedge garden” was the second of 14 projects listed for the future of the fledgling Arboretum.

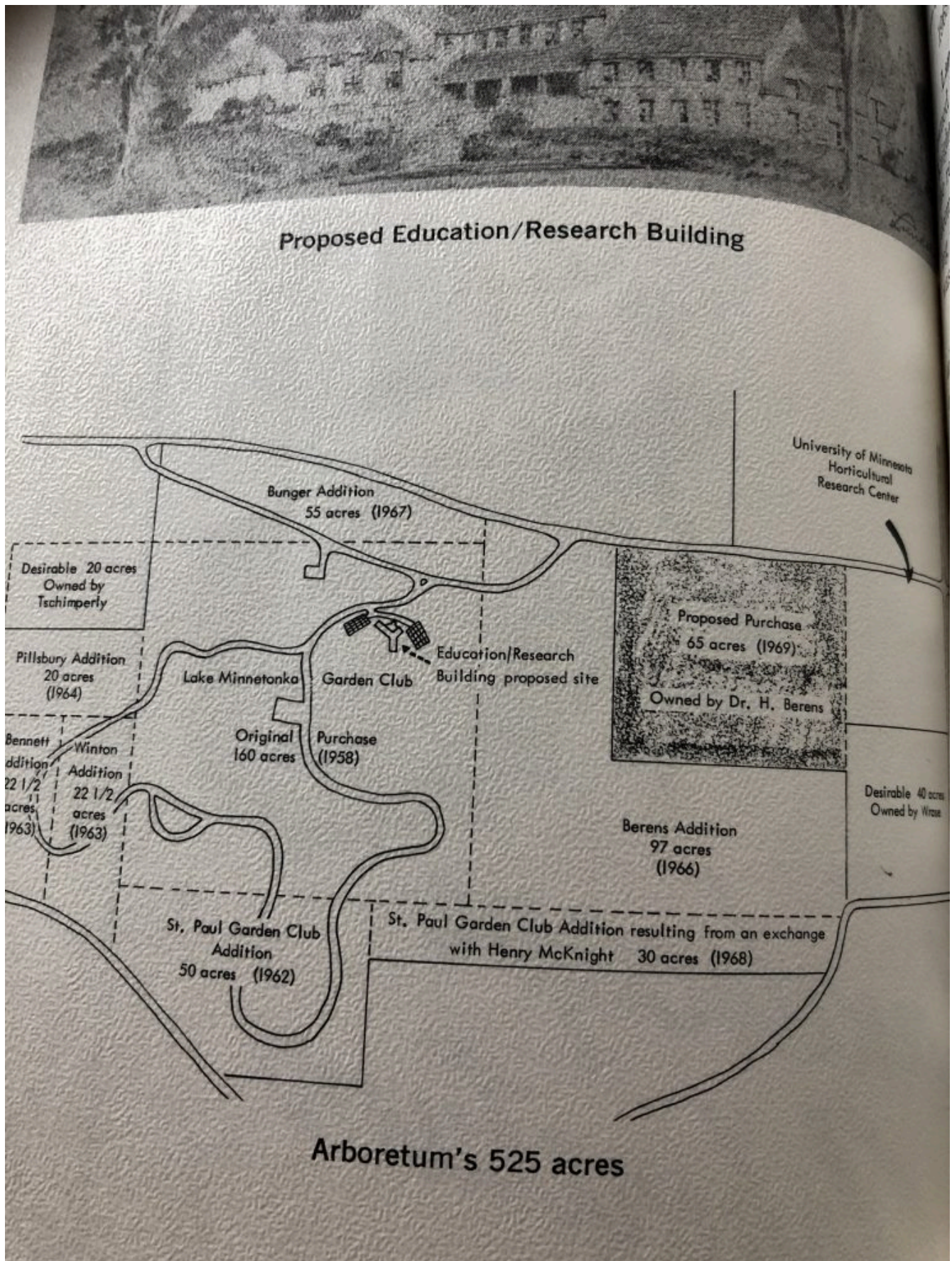
The 1966 annual report includes this paragraph: “Hedge Area—A hedge area, which will cover about 1½ acres, was started on the land purchased by the St Paul Garden Club. The new road will cut through the center of this section. For a suitable enclosure for wind protection, a border of Black Hills spruce was planted around the area. When the planting is complete, about 90 different hedge materials will be included.” The back cover of this publication showed the “Hedge Garden” on the map of the Arboretum.



Existing and proposed development of the arboretum

The first map showing the Hedge Garden location was on the back cover of the 1966 Minnesota Landscape Arboretum annual report.

The 1968 Annual Report noted: “The hedge area is beginning to take shape. About 20 hedge materials were planted and the entire area was seeded down to bluegrass in August. About 90 different materials will be planted.” The 1969 Annual Report back cover included a map showing the land acquisitions which enabled the expansion and planting of the Hedge Display.



The 1969 Annual Report back cover drawing of Arboretum map with the St Paul Garden Club donation for the new land accession which enabled the planting of the Hedge Display.

As Mike Zins, former Associate Extension Professor stated, the Hedge Collection provided an anchor for the new addition.

Leon Snyder authored the 2-page publication entitled *Formal Hedge Plants* in 1971, stating “We have started a collection of formal hedges in the arboretum. When completed, this hedge area will contain 90 specimens and cultivars. Sixty-six are planted now. The following show the greatest promise.” He then listed 33 plants with a brief description of each, including some of the first information on broad-leaved evergreen hardiness, such as boxwood.



Three types of boxwood, shown here in the foreground, are the only broad-leaved evergreen in the MLA's Hedge Collection. The oldest boxwood are from 1967.

In [1980 Mervin Eisel made minor revisions to Snyder's publication](#) with updated information on the Korean boxwood stating, “We have been quite successful with this variety in sheltered locations. Individual plants 20 or more years old on favorable sites are still attractive.” The same 33 plants are listed with comments as in the 1971 publication.



Wendy Colburn, membership secretary at the MLA, examines *Lonicera xylosteum* 'Emerald Mound' on July 20, 1972. This hedge is in the collection today. Image courtesy of the Leon Snyder slide collection, Andersen Horticultural Library.

Snyder (1985) included a section entitled Pruning Hedges (p. 57-58) in *Gardening in the Upper Midwest*, where he defines informal hedges as unpruned while formal hedges are “sheared using the tip pruning method.” He states how to prune (at planting cut back to 6 inches of the base and always trim wider at base). Formal hedges, he advises, require much work, but “similar results can be achieved by selecting the right plants to grow as an informal hedge.” He lists 20 plants for informal hedges and 15 for formal, pruned hedges (p. 172). In another book on native plants, Snyder listed nineteen ornamental trees and shrubs as useful for hedges and screens (Snyder, 1991). No doubt much of his knowledge was formed from the Arboretum hedge display.



One of three unpruned or natural hedges is Korean lilac, *Syringa meyeri*.

As of 2021, the MLA Hedge Display contains [73 taxa or different plants in 36 genera, with 53 cultivars or named selections](#). Ten hedges in the display are evergreen, with boxwood being the only broad-leaved evergreen, but there are 3 kinds of boxwood! Several of the plants date back to the 1967 planting, making them over 50 years old.

Darwin Pellett is the Landscape Gardener at the MLA who has managed the Hedge Display for more than 20 years. Currently, he formally shears all but three of the hedges. See details on maintenance and care of the Arboretum's Hedge Display in the chapter entitled MLA Hedge Care and Maintenance.



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Darwin Pellett, MLA Landscape Gardener, uses a gas powered trimmer to prune the hedges and the Maze Garden, shown here.

4

Jack Pine as a Hedge



The 'somewhat dwarf' Jack pine, *Pinus banksiana* are seedlings from a witches broom.

The largest plant in the MLA Hedge Collection is an informal, unpruned hedge of 7 plants of *Pinus banksiana*, Jack pine, a 1962 accession. These plants were selected from seed collected from a witches-broom in Chittamo, Wisconsin, by Albert G. Johnson (1912-1977) an early Arboretum curator. Because the plants are from seed, they are each a unique individual and although somewhat dwarf, they show variation and often, in a typical winter, some snow damage. Coming from a witches-broom can alter the plant's ability to grow as large typical Jack pines. After nearly 10 years, Snyder noted "with very little pruning, this plant is shaping into a beautiful evergreen hedge" (Snyder, 1971).

Today, nearly 60 years later, we can see the shorter somewhat dwarf stature. Some may question

what this plant is doing in the hedge area, but others see its value for a tough, native evergreen that can provide a cold hardy year-round screen that attracts wildlife and tolerates a wide variety of sites.



A Jack pine image showing a conspicuous dense witches broom on the center of the plant. Seed collected from these brooms were often dwarf or quite different from the species. From the Leon Snyder slide collection courtesy of the Andersen Horticultural Library.

5

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Hedge Care and Maintenance



In late winter some of the hedges are pruned or thinned at the base as a form of renewal pruning.



Hedge pruning may require protective equipment.

Darwin Pellett has been caring for the MLA Hedge Display since 2000. He tries to maintain the natural height of each plant and does the first major pruning when the plants start to grow in the spring. Some plants will need pruning an additional second or even third time during the summer to maintain their uniform shape. Boxwood and slower growing plants are often just pruned once in the summer. He cautions against cutting too much of the plant back and although this varies from species to species, some like honeysuckle can be pruned much more than other plants such as boxwood. Darwin uses a gasoline powered hedge trimmer and replaces the blades annually to achieve a sharp cut. Today, he notes there are good battery powered trimmers much improved from a few years ago.

The Arboretum soil is slightly alkaline and high in phosphorus and potassium, so the hedges do not need much additional fertilizer. The turfgrass or lawn in the hedge display does receive an annual fall fertilization of which some is no doubt used by the hedges. If the turf gets dry the area is watered, and any new hedge is watered until established, but overall the hedge display is not watered unless it is so dry the turfgrass is turning brown. Pest control is minimal, occasional plant bugs on the ninebark, but minimal pest control has been used.



Potentilla fruticosa Mango Tango, bush cinquefoil, left and *Philadelphus coronarius* 'Aureus', golden mockorange, right.

Each hedge is mulched with wood chips at the base to keep weeds at bay and make it easier to mow around the plants. Darwin's favorite hedges are the colorful dogwoods and arrowwood viburnum. These are easy plants to shear into a hedge and not difficult to care for. Potentilla is his least favorite hedge, although he acknowledges this is a tough plant that can grow in a wide variety of soils and sites.



Yellow-twig dogwood, *Cornus sericea* 'Flaviramea' is allowed to grow naturally and is not pruned into a formal shape.

The hedge display shows how these plants look when sheared. However, three of the hedges are not formally pruned: *Cornus sericea* 'Flaviramea', yellow twig dogwood, *Cornus sericea* 'Isanti', red twig dogwood and

Syringa meyeri, dwarf Korean lilac. These plants are allowed to grow naturally to show their colorful stems and flowers. Branches are thinned and dead wood is removed, but the plants are not sheared to the traditional box shape.



Early spring pruning thins out the yellow twig dogwood. Note high fencing in the middle of the picture to protect certain hedges from deer browsing.

Several species of birds nest in the hedges, since the dense growth provides good cover. Darwin says he sees "Lots of bird nests, song sparrows, brown thrashers, gray catbirds and several mallard nests." Rabbits do the most damage in eating the stems especially the arborvitae. Hedges provide good winter cover for wildlife, especially with heavy snow cover and when food is scarce.



Mike Zins, former Associate Professor in Extension, planted many of the trees and shrubs at the Arboretum. This photo could have been from his Extension teaching in the 1970s. Courtesy Andersen Horticultural Library, Leon Snyder Slide Collection.

6

Today's Hedges



Hedges were found to be in 40% of gardens in a recent British survey by the Royal Horticultural Society (Anonymous, 2021). This figure seems high for American gardens, however no research reports could be found to verify how this compares to American gardens.



Small front yard gardens in England show dense hedge plantings are common.



Tall, dense hedges reduce noise and screen urban roadways in England.

New research from England shows extensive positive environmental impacts of hedges in urban areas. “Most garden / urban hedges are planted for protection, border definition, security (keeping strangers out and pets / children in) and seclusion, aesthetics and climate modification” and the “reality is they do much more” (Blanusa et al., 2019). Blanusa (et al., 2019) reviewed nearly 90 publications and summarized the positive ecosystem services as well as disservices of 44 different hedge genera.



Fragrant sumac, *Rhus aromatica*, foreground and dappled willow, *Salix integra* 'Hakuro-nishiki' showy white foliage background, June 8, 2021. MLA Hedge Collection.

Positive ecosystem services measured were air quality improvement, biodiversity/value to wildlife including pollination support, carbon sequestration, human health benefits, noise mitigation, phytoremediation of soil pollutants, thermal benefits/cooling and insulating potential/wind speed reduction, water management/rainfall capture and flood risk reduction, security – due to being impenetrable due to thorns or spines, seclusion/privacy. The disservices measured were allergenicity, air quality reduction, invasiveness, excessive shading, labor intensive (need for frequent pruning). Additional research has found evergreen hedges in Rome, Italy mitigate pollution in metropolitan areas (Gratani and Varone, 2013). Many of the hedges cited in this literature as improving the environment are in the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Hedge Display.



Hedges can create a formal garden in a small space, with a high density of plants to improve air quality. Crimson pygmy barberry, the dark purple plant shown above has been replaced due to rabbit damage, but is too invasive to be planted in most locations.



Peking cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster acutifolius*, has been in the MLA Hedge Collection since 1968.

Specific hedges such as *Cotoneaster franchetii* have been cited as having “super powers” and “can trap up to 20% more emissions than other hedges tested” due to their dense structure and rough hairy leaves (Anonymous, 2021). The Royal Horticultural Society published a list of the best hedge plants for use in urban gardens to mitigate air pollution, aid in cooling and rainfall capture (Blanusa, 2019).

Hedges, explains Tijana Blanusa, “are an undervalued form of urban green infrastructure.” The dense nature of hedges makes them unique plant communities that can provide numerous ecological benefits in addition to adding diversity and value to our home landscapes.

7

Cultural Significance of Hedges



The Long Walk at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA, shown in this historic slide from September 1986 is still backed today by a dark evergreen American arborvitae hedge.

Hedges reflect signs of care, sophisticated gardening skills, and a managed landscape that conveys human intervention. Formal garden hedges are one of the essential, classic elements of garden design. A clipped hedge subconsciously conveys care and order, a feeling of privacy, protection and perhaps a

safe enclosure. Garden dominance and control of plants is something humans have come to favor; a clipped hedge creates a sense of management, control and often, good citizenship.

What does it mean to plant a hedge in your landscape? Is it simply an element of garden design that subconsciously conveys what you can afford, showing status or a measure of wealth? Was Louis XIV showing off his wealth and power when he created his hedges? Yes, he was but a typical gardener today is usually not consciously showing off with hedges, but more often wanting to create privacy or seclusion.



Versailles gardens viewed from the back steps of the palace in 1997. Dominance and control of the entire landscape was Louis XIV goal, even clipping trees into tall hedges.

Gardeners today are much more apt to plant a hedge that is unpruned and requires little upkeep but can serve a function to screen an unsightly view or provide privacy or perhaps to protect from wind and snow.



Big Shoulders hedge makes a protective backdrop in Lurie Garden, Chicago. American Public Gardens Association image.

Few people may mention or think of a hedge as a requirement for a “good” landscape design, but feelings are easily evoked when seeing a hedge or when walking along one. The 15 foot tall hedge in the Lurie Garden in Chicago was planted and clipped to show the City of the Big Shoulders, a living symbol of the city’s trademark name from Carl Sandburg’s poem.



Gardeners at the Royal Horticultural Society's Rosemore Garden in Devon, teach the art of hedge laying.

Americans are often too busy to maintain a hedge and while they know what a hedge is, we know almost nothing about hedgerows. A hedgerow is a linear planting of multiple kinds of shrubs and quite often trees that have traditionally been used for agricultural property boundaries in England. A brief look at the [National Hedgelaying Society](#) and [Hedgeline](#) makes it clear that Great Britain has evolved with hedgerows and their management is very much a part of British culture and heritage, something quite different from the single species of hedge typically used in garden and landscape design. Hedgerows are maintained by hedge-laying, a practice rarely if ever seen in the U.S. which consists of cutting plants partially off (usually with an axe) and laying the stems down (often at a precise angle) to create a row of living fence. Multiple kinds of plants are grown together to form this layered

thicket or hedge which sometimes has a stone or earth mound at the base.



Hedgerows in English Countryside

Hedgerows traditionally separated farm fields. Image Whatcom Conservation District Lynden, WA.

Hedgerows can be a source of species diversity while supplying food and refuge sites for animals, insects, and birds. In England, all wild birds and their nests (while being built or in use) are protected under the [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#). Some hedgerows are protected from removal by the 1997 [Hedgerow Regulations](#).

The use of hedges for screening and privacy can create problems which led to regulations in England under the [Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 Part 8](#), to address the problem of un-neighborly disputes over the height of hedges. The maximum height of 2 meters on domestic evergreen boundary hedges is now the law. [‘Over the Garden Hedge’](#) shows how to settle your garden differences with neighbors without involving the local government.

Hugh Barker has written an interesting and as he says “idiosyncratic guide” to hedges in Britannia. He provides a “series of rambles through geography and history, a light-hearted debate with the past” about how the hedge “developed as a symbol of territory, boundary, property and decoration.” A must read for anyone who finds interest in hedges, Barker shows their vast diversity. He is a staunch support of hedgerows and their conservation and states: “People of Britain- the future of our hedges is in your hands.”

As of 2021, only the Morton Arboretum in Chicago and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen Minnesota are maintaining hedge displays in the U. S. While these displays might seem out of fashion with today’s landscape design, a hedge remains a classic design element and with new knowledge of the benefits of hedges coupled with more naturalistic designs, along with new plants for varying heights, today’s gardeners can choose from a wide selection of plants for hedges. Although Americans today think of hedges primarily for privacy, we should appreciate the additional ecosystem functions they provide.



Hedges of lime or *Tilia* species are common in England. Here a double hedge of lime trees and evergreen yews mark a formal walkway in Kew Gardens.

Whether you realize it or not, hedges may evoke feelings from your past exposure to gardens or may nudge you to plant a hedge on your own property. *“Shaping a hedge is the closest most of us will ever come to doing sculpture or erecting a monument, but I think the real reward is more mundane. Shearing is very empowering – it gives you an exhilarating sense of control and achievement. You can stand back afterward and say, look what I’ve done,”* Rita Buchanan, *Country Gardener* magazine, 1999.

Owning property and the resources to manage a hedge may have originally defined hedges as aristocratic plants but in light of our increasing knowledge of how plants are necessary for our health and their ecosystem benefits, we should all embrace hedges, whether in public parks, botanical gardens such as the Morton or Minnesota Landscape Arboretum or our personal private property to encourage our well-being and further interaction with the natural world.

8

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PART II

THE LIST OF MINNESOTA
LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM
HEDGES



Hedge plants can vary in appearance from one season to the next. In July flowers are found on *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle'.

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Hedge Collection Inventory
June 2021

Accession Number*	Year Planted**	Botanical Name	Common Name	Height/width***	Comments
20060784	2007	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> 'Glennform' Rainbow Pillar®	Rainbow Pillar serviceberry	4 ft x 3 ft	Early spring white flowers
19790117		<i>Amelanchier spicata</i>	spicate serviceberry	3 ft x 30 in	Early spring white flowers green foliage
19670591		<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	black chokeberry	3 1/2 ft x 3 ft	Hardy native with white flowers
19650038		<i>Berberis koreana</i>	Korean barberry	4 1/2 ft x 4 ft	Red and green spring foliage
20160305	2016	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> 'BailErin' Limoncello™	Lemoncello barberry	2 ft x 2 ft	Very showy red yellow flowers
20040359	2004	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> 'Bailgreen' Jade Carousel®	Jade Carousel barberry	2 ft x 3 ft	Showy red fall fruit
19601135		<i>Buxus microphylla</i> var. <i>koreana</i>	Korean boxwood	1 1/2 ft x 3 ft	Short; broadleafed evergreen
19640559		<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> MLA	boxwood	1 1/2 ft x 3 ft	Broad leafed evergreen winter burn
20110549	2011	<i>Buxus</i> 'Glencoe' Chicagoland Green™	Chicagoland Green boxwood	10 in x 2 ft	Broad leafed evergreen winter burn
19540087		<i>Caragana frutex</i> 'Globosa'	globe peashrub	2 1/2 ft x 3 ft	Attractive foliage, many flowers in growth. Always on favorites Pete C. Moen MLA
19620221		<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	white fringetree	3 1/2 ft x 5 ft	White flowers in May coarse plant but still attractive and attractive hedge evergreen flowers and interesting females
19670592		<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	gray dogwood	3 1/2 ft x 3 ft	Tough native plant
19960330		<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	gray dogwood	5 ft x 5 ft	Tough native plant
20160306	2016	<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Bailadeline' Firedance®	Firedance red twig dogwood	2 1/2 ft x 2 ft	Red stems on newest growth
20160377	2016	<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Cardinal'	Cardinal red twig dogwood	3 1/2 ft x 2 ft	Red stems on newest growth
19920707	unpruned	<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Flaviramea'	yellow-twig dogwood	7 ft x 5 1/2 ft	Yellow stems; unpruned growth habit
19630338	unpruned	<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Isanti'	Isanti red twig dogwood	6 1/2 ft x 5 ft	Tred stems; unpruned growth habit

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20060782	2007	<i>Corylus americana</i>	American hazelnut	2 ft x 2 ft	Hardy native plant
19680088		<i>Cotoneaster acutifolius</i>	Peking cotoneaster 1968 accession	4 ft x 3 ft	Colorful glossy foliage
19880704		<i>Cotoneaster acutifolius</i>	Peking cotoneaster 1988 accession	5 ft x 5 ft	Colorful glossy foliage
20061204	2006	<i>Cotoneaster lucidus</i>	hedge cotoneaster	2 1/2 ft x 2 1/2 ft	Colorful glossy foliage
19670502		<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	cockspur hawthorn	3 ft x 2 1/2 ft	Thorns make an impo hedge
19911104	2002	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	bush honeysuckle	2 ft x 3 ft	colorful foliage; tough
19660488		<i>Dirca palustris</i>	leatherwood	5 ft x 6 ft	Tough native named bark
19610454		<i>Euonymus europaeus</i> 'Aldenhamensis'	European spindletree	3 1/2 ft x 2 1/2 ft	Red fall color; may be to seeding
20190440	2019	<i>Exochorda</i> × <i>macrantha</i> 'Bailmoon' Lotus Moon™	Lotus Moon pearlbrush	2 1/2 ft x 2 ft	Early spring white flo
19550277		<i>Forsythia</i> 'Arnold Dwarf'	Arnold dwarf forsythia	2 ft x 2 1/2 ft	Low growing compac flowers than other for cultivars
20040360	2004	<i>Forsythia</i> 'Meadowlark'	meadowlark forsythia	4 ft x 4 ft	Hardy with very early
20110551	2011	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Annabelle'	Annabelle hydrangea	6 in x 1 1/2 ft (recently cutback, grows to 3 feet annually)	Deciduous; stems die ground; large white fl summer
20160378	2016	<i>Hypericum kalmianum</i> 'Ames'	Kalm St John's wort	2 ft x 2 ft	Iowa State selection; summer flowers
19890854		<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry	2 1/2 ft x 2 1/2 ft	Attractive red berries
20160379	2016	<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Bailfire' Wildfire™	Wildfire winterberry	2 ft x 1 1/2 ft	Selected for abundan
19610367		<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Maney'	Maney juniper	3 ft x 9 ft	Evergreen; Upright b habit
19540297		<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> 'Cheyenne'	Cheyenne privet	2 ft x 3 ft	Wyoming selection; g tough plant
19650791		<i>Lonicera</i> × <i>xylostoides</i> 'Clavey's Dwarf'	Clavey's Dwarf honeysuckle	3 ft x 6 ft	Vigorous early to lea grow
19770300		<i>Lonicera</i> × <i>xylostoides</i> 'Clavey's Hedge King'	Clavey's Hedge King honeysuckle	2 ft x 2 1/2 ft	Vigorous early to lea grow
19770306		<i>Lonicera alpigena</i> 'Nana'	Alps honeysuckle	2 ft x 2 ft	Vigorous early to lea grow

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19760290		<i>Lonicera caerulea</i> var. <i>altaica</i>	sweetberry honeysuckle	3 ft x 7 ft	Vigorous early to leaf out; grows well in shade
19540461		<i>Lonicera maximowiczii</i>	Sakhalin honeysuckle	3 ft x 4 ft	Vigorous early to leaf out; grows well in shade
19700141		<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i> 'Emerald Mound'	fly honeysuckle	2 ft x 3 ft	Vigorous early to leaf out; grows well in shade
19870453		<i>Lonicera</i> 'Honey Rose'	Honey Rose honeysuckle	4 ft x 3 ft	Vigorous early to leaf out; grows well in shade; red spring flowers
19670593		<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i> 'Aureus'	golden mockorange	1 1/2 ft x 2 ft	chartreuse foliage
20190441	2019	<i>Philadelphus</i> 'Snowwhite Fantasy' Snow White™	Snow White mockorange	3 ft x 2 ft	fragrant spring flowers
20060785	2007	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Center Glow'	Center Glow ninebark	3 ft x 2 ft	showy red foliage
19880707		<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Dart's Gold'	Dart's Gold ninebark	4 ft x 5 ft	showy golden foliage
20130543	2016	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'UMNHarpell' Fireside®	Fireside ninebark	27 in x 18 in	small dark purple foliage
20040281	2004	<i>Picea</i> × <i>albertiana</i>	Blackhills spruce, hedge around entire display	4 ft x 3 ft	Evergreen bluegreen foliage
19620270		<i>Pinus banksiana</i> broom	Jack pine dwarf	25 ft x 25 ft	Seedlings from a wild tree; show reduced height
19620509		<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'Jackmanii'	bush cinquefoil	28 in x 3 ft	yellow flowers in summer
19680130		<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'Primrose Beauty'	bush cinquefoil	2 ft x 2 1/2 ft	pink flowers in summer
20100565	2010	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'UMan' Mango Tango™	bush cinquefoil	2 ft x 3 ft	orange and yellow flowers in summer
20190443		<i>Prunus besseyi</i> 'POHS' Pawnee Buttes®	western sand cherry	18 in x 20 in	Early spring white flowers; green foliage
19650040		<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	fragrant sumac	2 ft x 5 ft	Attractive foliage, late spring flowers
19670618		<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Alpine currant	3 ft x 3 ft	Early spring yellow flowers
20190444	2019	<i>Ribes nigrum</i> 'Consort'	Consort black currant	28 in x 2 ft	Edible fruits; attractive foliage
20080370		<i>Salix integra</i> 'Hakuro-nishiki'	dappled willow	4 ft x 5 ft	Variegated colorful foliage with seasons
19530067		<i>Salix purpurea</i> 'Nana'	dwarf arctic willow	2 1/2 ft x 2 1/2 ft	Blue gray foliage
20150343	2015	<i>Salix</i> 'Flame'	willow	40 in x 32 in	Showy red stems
19670599		<i>Spiraea</i> × <i>vanhouttei</i>	Vanhoutte spirea	3 1/2 ft x 3 1/2 ft	White spring flowers; cascading branches if trained

19901063		<i>Spiraea</i> × <i>vanhouttei</i>	Vanhoutte spirea	20 in x 2 ft	White spring flowers cascading branches if
19570312		<i>Spiraea japonica</i> ‘Anthony Waterer’	Vanhoutte spirea	2 ft x 2 ft	White spring flowers cascading branches if
19700142		<i>Spiraea nipponica</i> ‘Snowmound’	Snowmound spirea	20 in x 3 ft	White spring flowers cascading branches if
19750312		<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	western snowberry	27 in x 2 ft	Native plant
19650787		<i>Syringa</i> × <i>chinensis</i>	Chinese lilac	3 ft x 3 ft	Tough plant, spring f
19830215	unpruned	<i>Syringa meyeri</i>	Meyer lilac	5 ft x 5 ft	Easy to grow in natur form for colorful and
20160381	2016	<i>Syringa pubescens</i> subsp. <i>patula</i> ‘Miss Kim’	Miss Kim lilac	2 ft x 2 ft	Very fragrant flowers
20080371	2008	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ‘Bailjohn’ Technito®	Technito American arborvitae	22 in x 20 in	Hardy evergreen
19901064		<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ‘Hoseri’	Hoseri American arborvitae	28 in x 3 ft	short evergreen
19740338		<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ‘Techny’	Techny American arborvitae	4 ft x 6 ft	tough reliable plant f hedge
19670714		<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ‘Wareana’	Wareana American arborvitae	6 ft x 7-10 ft	Can be trained to larg formal or informal
19700143		<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	arrowwood viburnum	3 1/2 ft x 5 ft	Hardy native with fru
20110552	2011	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> ‘Christom’ Blue Muffin®	arrowwood viburnum	3 1/2 ft x 3 ft	Blue berries in fall
19660768		<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Wayfaring Tree viburnum	4 ft x 5 ft	glossy foliage, white e flowers and fruit for v
20160383	2016	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i> ‘Wentworth’	American highbush cranberry	2 1/2 ft x 2 ft	red fruits in fall
20110553	2015	<i>Weigela florida</i> ‘Java Red’	Java Red weigela	28 in x 25 in	purple foliage, early s flowers

* The accession number is given to a plant when it is acquired by the MLA. The first four numbers designate the year of the accession. This may or may not be the year it was planted in the hedge display.

** The year planted refers to the year the plant was planted in the hedge display, some plants were acquired and grown on site before they were planted in the hedge display.

*** Approximate measurements, most plants are several inches wider at the base than top which promotes plant health.

PART III

NICK'S RECOMMENDED HEDGES FROM MINNESOTA COLLECTION

Nick Kreevich, Associate Curator, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Amelanchier canadensis 'Glenn Form' Rainbow Pillar®
Columnar Shadblow Serviceberry (20060784)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge due to architectural interest at base of hedge and sharper edges at top of hedge
Privacy:	Semi-private to Private Approximately +5ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Small green leaves change to shades of orange to red in the fall
Flower:	Blooms in spring with white, showy flowers on old growth which will form into blueish-green berries
Maintenance:	Vigorous top growth; some holes/dieback in the hedge
Pest/Disease Issues:	Rust, leaf spot, blight, powdery mildew, sawfly, leaf miner, borers and scale; few issues

Berberis thunbergii 'Bailgreen' Jade Carousel® – Barberry (20040359)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge due to compact and dense growth
Privacy:	Not private Approximately 2-6ft tall maturity
Foliage:	Leaves emerge yellow-green in the spring, turning to deep green throughout growing season and change to a scarlet-orange in the fall
Flower:	Ornamentally insignificant; blooms in spring with clusters of yellow flowers on old growth
Maintenance:	Thorns are a nuisance, but slow growth allows less pruning maintenance; no holes in hedge; no weeds growing through
Pest/Disease Issues:	Bacterial leaf spot, anthracnose, root rots, wilt, aphids, barberry webworm and scale
Important Note:	In the eastern United States, the species, <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> is known to be highly invasive through avian dispersion.

Berberis thunbergii 'BailErin' Limoncello™ – Barberry (20160305)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge due to compact and dense growth
Privacy:	Not private Approximately 2-6ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Small, chartreuse-colored foliage with spotted red margins that turn to shades of orange, yellow, and red in the fall for late season interest
Flower:	Ornamentally insignificant; blooms in spring with clusters of yellow flowers on old growth
Maintenance:	Thorns are a nuisance, but slow growth allows less pruning maintenance; no holes in hedge; no weeds growing through
Pest/Disease Issues:	Bacterial leaf spot, anthracnose, root rots, wilt, aphids, barberry webworm and scale(t)
Important Note:	In the eastern United States, the species, <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> is known to be highly invasive through avian transmission.

Caragana frutex 'Globosa' – Russian Peashrub

Form/Shape:

Privacy:

Foliage:

Flower:

Maintenance:

Pest/Disease
Issues:



Chionanthus virginicus – White Fringe Tree (19620221)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge due to dense foliage, tidiness, and height
Privacy:	Semi-private to private Approximately +5ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Long, glossy, vibrant green leaves give way to shades of yellow in the fall providing late season interest
Flower:	Blooms in spring with showy, fragrant, white flowers on old growth
Maintenance:	Growth on top of hedge appears to be vigorous; can show signs of stress during prolonged bouts of drought or heat stress; some weeds growing through
Pest/Disease Issues:	Few to no pests

Diervilla lonicera – Bush Honeysuckle (19911104)

Form/Shape:

Privacy:

Foliage:

Flower:

Maintenance:

Pest/Disease
Issues:



Dirca palustris – Leatherwood (19660488)

Form/Shape:

Privacy:

Foliage:

Flower:

Maintenance:

Pest/Disease
Issues:



Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle' – Smooth Hydrangea (20110551)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a more rounded or organically shaped hedge
Privacy:	Not private to semi-private Approximately 3-5ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Large green leaves provide dimension and textural interest; leaves turn yellow in the fall to provide fall interest
Flower:	Blooms in early summer with large corymb inflorescences with white flowers; blooms on new growth
Maintenance:	Vigorous growth and should be pruned in late winter or early spring to promote flowers
Pest/Disease Issues:	Bud blight, bacterial wilt, leaf spots, mold, rust, powdery mildew, aphids, mites, scale and nematodes

Hypericum kalmianum 'Ames' – Kalm St. John's Wort (20160378)



Form/Shape:

Privacy:

Foliage:

Flower:

Maintenance:

Pest/Disease
Issues:

Juniperus chinensis 'Maney' – Chinese Juniper (19610367)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge to architectural interest at base of hedge with sharp, clean edges at the top of the hedge
Privacy:	Semi-private; approximately 6 ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Powdery blue and evergreen foliage provides year-round interest that is also resistant to winter burn; foliage provides textural interest
Flower:	Ornamentally insignificant
Maintenance:	Slower growth provides less maintenance; takes to pruning well
Pest/Disease Issues:	Tip and needle blights, cedar-apple rust, root rot, canker, aphids, bagworms, webworms and scale

Picea glauca – White Spruce (20040281)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge due to dense foliage and height
Privacy:	Semi-private to private
Foliage:	Approximately 40+ft tall at maturity if not pruned as hedge
Flower:	Ornamentally insignificant
Maintenance:	Could prove to be high maintenance due to its mature height if not pruned; dense foliage can also be an issue within high humidity environments trapping moisture
Pest/Disease Issues:	Spruce budworm, spider mites; few pests

Potentilla fruticosa 'Uman' Mango Tango™ – Bush Cinquefoil (20100565)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a more rounded or organically shaped hedge
Privacy:	Not private; approximately 2-3ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Small, fern-like, green leaves are dense and provide textural interest
Flower:	Blooms in late spring through fall with deep yellow flowers on new growth
Maintenance:	Dense and compact growth provide less maintenance for shaping into a hedge
Pest/Disease Issues:	Mildew in humid climates, fungal leaf spot and spider mites

Rhus aromatica – Fragrant Sumac (19650040)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge due to dense foliage; softer and rounded edges with new growth
Privacy:	Semi-private; approximately 2-6ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Green trifoliate leaves with bluish hues provide textural interest with fall color resulting in leaf color ranging from red to purple to orange
Flower:	Ornamentally insignificant; red berries may be showy
Maintenance:	Due to dense foliage from base to top of hedge, some weeds are growing through; growth appears to be slower, so less pruning
Pest/Disease Issues:	Leaf spot, rust, scale, aphids and mites; few issues

Salix integra 'Hakuro-Nishiki' – Dappled Willow (20080370)

Form/Shape:

Privacy:

Foliage:

Flower:

Maintenance:

Pest Issues:



Salix purpurea 'Nana' – Dwarf Purple Willow (19530067)



Form/Shape:

Privacy:

Foliage:

Flower:

Maintenance:

Pest/Disease
Issues:

Thuja occidentalis 'Wareana' – American Arborvitae (19670714)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge due to dense, tidy growth with sharp, clean edges
Privacy:	Private; approximately 8 to 10 ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Dark green, evergreen foliage provides year-round interest; this selection is hardy to zone 3 and is less susceptible to winter burn
Flower:	Ornamentally insignificant
Maintenance:	Can grow up to a max of 1 foot per year; due to width and height of hedge, volume of maintenance is increased
Pest/Disease Issues:	Leaf blight, canker, leaf miner, bagworms, mealybug, scale, spider mites, winter burn

Viburnum dentatum 'Christom' Blue Muffin® – Arrowwood Viburnum (20110552)

Form/Shape:

Privacy:

Foliage:

Flower:

Maintenance:

Pest/Disease
Issues:



Weigela florida 'Java Red' – Weigela (20110553)



Form/Shape:	Best suited for a formal-shaped hedge due to dense foliage, tidiness, and sharp edges
Privacy:	Not private to semi-private; approximately 2 1/2-6ft tall at maturity
Foliage:	Showy deep purple leaves provide visual interest for the entire growing season; toothed leaves with contrasting venation provide textural interest
Flower:	Blooms in late spring with deep pink flowers on old growth
Maintenance:	Growth is slow; no holes in the hedge; no weeds growing through; may need frequent watering during heat or drought stress
Pest/Disease Issues:	Minor: not noteworthy/few pests

PART IV

GABE'S DRONE VIDEO OF MLA HEDGE COLLECTION

In the summer of 2020 Gabe Nyen made this 1 minute drone video of the Hedge Display at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum as part of his summer internship.

Hey Mary,

I made a video of the hedge collection. Here is a [link to that video](#).



A YouTube element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://pressbooks.umn.edu/hedges/?p=210>

(The video doesn't have sound)

Kind regards,

Gabe Nyen

NOTE: Actually the video does have sound....Japanese background music.

PART V

JEFFREY JOHNSON HEDGE SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT VIDEO, PRAIRIE YARD AND GARDEN, 2013

Watch this [30 minute Hedge video](#) from the 2013 Prairie Yard and Garden PBS show.

Jeffrey Johnson, former Landscape Gardener at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, discusses the many uses for hedges in home landscapes with Larry Zilliox, former University of Minnesota Extension Educator. Jeffrey covers hedge maintenance including annual and renewal pruning, fertilization, and pest management.

The video includes many views of the Arboretum's Hedge Collection and shows specific examples of short, medium, and tall hedges including evergreen and deciduous plants. Native and flowering plants are also featured.





PART VI

AUTHOR'S CHILDHOOD
HEDGE



Privet hedge in winter makes a strong horizontal line and separates the farmyard from the house at the author's childhood home.

I grew up with a 120-foot privet (*Ligustrum* spp.) hedge that separated our farmhouse from the barnyard. The hedge was planted by my Father or perhaps Grandfather around 1930. The hedge is in every early picture of the farm, so no one alive today is really certain when it was planted or who planted it. I grew up cutting the hedge after my father taught me. No electric tools for this hedge trimming, just a hedge shears that my Father sharpened. I recall how much my arms hurt and hands blistered when I first cut the hedge, but there was a great sense of satisfaction in seeing the formal shape emerge. And mistakes were easily outgrown in a few weeks by the tough privet plants.

My sister, who lives in the farm house now, cuts this hedge once or twice a year. I believe it was planted to keep animals (chickens and sheep) away from the house and it symbolized a formal cared-for landscape. The hedge creates a strong horizontal grounding for the house which stands uphill behind the long hedge. As my sister says, "It makes a frame for the house."

A formal hedge is quite a lot of work for a farm. Typically farms require functional plants, since there is limited time for labor on ornamental plants. I like to think that my Father added the hedge for beauty and for a more formal landscape. Ninety years later this privet hedge is growing strong and certainly could outlive me!

Did you grow up with a hedge? Is pruning a hedge a passage of summer chores and labor that you were taught? Who cuts the hedge in your landscape?



Mary Meyer's Father, William Hockenberry, August 11, 1973 walking through the privet hedge at her wedding reception at the family farm.

This is where you can add appendices or other back matter.