

Horse paddock – hedge specie selection

BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

Source : [Pasture management | The British Horse Society \(bhs.org.uk\)](#)

### Hedgerows and Trees

Hedgerows and trees can provide great shade and protection from the wind, as well as supporting biodiversity and other wildlife. However, it's very important to make sure that they don't pose a risk to your horse.

The most popular hedgerow is hawthorn, also known as quickthorn. Hawthorn is non-toxic to horses and once established can be very sturdy. Hazel is also a horse-safe option to include within hedgerows and having a mixture of hedges is more favourable and natural for the environment.

Although not an exhaustive list, hedges that are poisonous to horses include privet, leylandii, broom, box and laurel.

Trees that are safe for horse pasture include ash, birch, poplar, beech and willow. It's important to remember that if trees lose their leaves during the winter months, they will provide little protection from the weather.

Several trees are poisonous to horses, including [sycamore](#), yew, laburnum and [oak](#).