Pleaching adds a strong architectural element to any garden. You can use pleached trees or instant screening to extend the height of your garden fence or wall to make your own private garden.

SOME TREE SUGGESTIONS FOR PLEACHING

Click on the tree links below to view more information & pictures

- *Acer plat. 'Globosum'* - (Globe Norway Maple)
- *Alnus jourullensis* - (Evergreen Mexican Alder)
- *Carpinus betulus* - (European or Common Hornbeam)
- *Fagus syl. 'Purple Fountain'* - (Weeping Copper Beech)
- *Fagus sylvatica* - (English Green Beech)
- *Liquidambar sty. 'Worplesdon'* - (American Sweetgum)
- *Olea standards* - (Olive)
- *Parrotia persica* - (Persian Ironwood)
- *Photinia 'Red Robin'* - (Christmas Berry)
- *Prunus laurocerasus* - (Cherry Laurel, English Laurel)
- *Pyrus calleryana. 'Aristocrat'* - (Ornamental Pear)
- *Quercus Ilex* - (Holm Oak)
- *Tilia cordata* - (Small Leaved Lime)
- *Tilia europaea* - (Common Lime)

PLEACHED TREE MAINTENANCE - The trees will need regular pruning in the winter, when they’re dormant & their structure is visible. In Summer & Spring expect errant growth that you can trim back to maintain the flat plane of intertwined trees.
**PLEACHING**

Pleaching is a shaping technique that involves the weaving and tying of living tree branches, often Beech or Hornbeam, to create a flat, raised hedge with a clear stem below. The woven branches are tied together to cover any weak or bare spots, resulting in a bushy, aesthetically pleasing, thick hedge. Often, pleached trees are planted in a line for screening purposes or to decorate a pathway, and branches that come into contact with each other generally continue to grow together, intertwining in what's known as a natural graft called inosculation.

**ESPALIERING**

Espalier is the practice of training tree branches, particularly fruit trees, onto decorative frameworks to create ornamental patterns and encourage fruit production. The branches are shaped, pruned and tied to grow flat against a structure, which is a great way to renovate bare walls, fences or trellises. Espalier is used most often with fruit trees as the flat structure formed through this method, not only conserves space but allows sunlight to reach each individual fruit growing on the tree, whereas with a traditional tree shape, some fruit may be shaded by overlapping branches.

- When trees are young, thin branches are flexible and can be bent and tied against a trellis or frame. Cut off any branches that don't want to bend.
  - Weave together supple young shoots and tie them onto the framework with twine. Don't force branches that don't want to bend. It is better to cut them off and wait for more shoots.

- Pleached trees are trained by creating a framework of bamboo (wooden standards) in the ‘head’ of the tree, that is the branches above the trimmed, straight trunk which can be any height but most often is approximately 2 metres above ground level.
  - The frame is securely fastened to the trunk and to the central stem (leader) of the head and then the side branches, or laterals, are carefully bent downwards and tied into the horizontal bamboo framework. This can only be done with very young branches as thicker and more mature wood will resist the bending.

  - Traditionally the height of the frame is between 1.5 and 2 metres, which can give an overall tree height of up to 4 metres. The width of a frame on a young tree in the nursery will also be in the region of 2 metres, but as the tree grows this can be increased with training.