

Exposed Sites

We often feel we're located in the windiest spot in the Vale of Evesham – which is valuable as we can recommend plants that can tolerate wind. Where indicated below, plants are suitable for exposed seaside locations where the wind is salt-bearing. Being Midland-based, we don't specialise in seaside planting, so you may well spot favourites that we've omitted – the ones we've included are suitable for more general exposed sites as well.

Evergreen Trees

Ilex aquifolium – the Holly – a tough plant, happy in exposed sites both on the coast and inland.

Quercus ilex – the Holm Oak is tolerant of a range of soils, thrives on shallow chalk and is happy in exposed seaside locations where it is unbothered by salt-bearing winds and is best kept clipped to form a windbreak.

Pinus sylvestris – the Scots Pine, one of our few native conifers.

Deciduous Trees

Acer pseudoplatanus 'Leopoldii' – a cultivar of the Sycamore with speckled green and white leaves

Betula pendula – the Silver Birch survives in rugged places in the Highlands of Scotland – an excellent recommendation for a tree with year-round interest

Crataegus laevigata – the Midland Hawthorn - thrives on heavy clay. Our favourite is the red-flowered *C. laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet'.

Crataegus monogyna – the Hawthorn may bend over at impossible angles on exposed hillsides, but it carries on growing

Sorbus aucuparia – the Rowan or Mountain Ash, like the Silver Birch, grows bleak spots in the Scottish Highlands and provides interest from spring when the leaves and flowers appear until the last of the berries is eaten in late autumn or winter

Evergreen Shrubs

Berberis darwinii – a tough and unfussy shrub that makes a good windbreak on exposed sites and near the sea

Choisya ternata – the Mexican Orange Blossom is a tough plant, especially in its straightforward green form and is salt-tolerant too.

Euonymus japonicus – the Japanese Spindle has broad, creamy-white margins to its mid-green leaves. Young leaves open bright yellow. Good for exposed, coastal sites where it is useful for low hedges

Griselinia littoralis – rounded, shiny green or variegated leaves – excellent for exposed coastal sites

Fatsia japonica – its large, glossy, hand-shaped leaves cheer up dark corners. Mulching the root to protect from frost recommended as a frost-damaged plant can then regenerate from the root.

Hebe – an ideal group of salt-tolerant plants to grow near the sea where the risk of frosts is reduced. Inland they require some shelter.

Deciduous Shrubs

Hydrangea macrophylla – we love lacecap varieties such as the blue-flowering ‘Blaumeise’ and the white-flowered ‘Libelle’ – they’re tough plants, rarely need pruning and tolerate wind and seaspray.

Other Plants Suitable for Creating Windbreaks

Phormium tenax – the New Zealand Flax with its long, blade-shaped leaves, quickly grows sufficiently large make a windbreak. Salt-tolerant.

Fargesia murielae – a non-invasive, clumping Bamboo