Hedgerow videos project 'A View over the Hedge' 'Hedging Carbon'

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council

Project background

Why?

 Heritage Forum – concern about inappropriate management of hedgerows



What?

Awareness Raising video

How?

Heritage Council funding approval



Progressing the Project

Who?

- Farmer & Hedge laying Association of Ireland
- NPWS Ranger
- Teagasc

When?

Summer flowers & Autumn berries

Where?

On farm & hedge laying competition





Hedgerows - Cultural features



- 'Man-made structures' in landscape
- Field boundaries planted in response to Enclosure Acts in L17th /18th C – Hawthorn
- Historic townland boundaries

Hedgerows - Biodiversity

- Food source flowers/ berries/ nuts
- Habitat
 - Insects
 - Birds
 - Mammals
- Wildlife corridors /networks connecting habitats





Hedgerow habitat

Native tree species











Hedgerow habitat

- Creepers
- Stone/earthen bank
- Wildflowers
- Dead wood
- Leaf litter









Ecosystem services



Flood alleviation & Shelter



- Roots absorb surface water to help combat flooding
- 'There's not much shelter in an electric fence'
- Shelter provided by hedge can extend for 15-30 x height of hedge

Legislation and Regulations

- Under Section 40 Wildlife Act illegal to cut or destroy a hedge during Bird Nesting Season 1st March – 30th Aug
- EIA Agri Regs 2011 EIA
 required for removal of 500m+ of
 hedgerows / creating field >5ha
- Planning Permissions replacement planting
- Exemptions H&S Roadside



Are hedgerows overlooked in discussions on Climate Action/Adaptation?

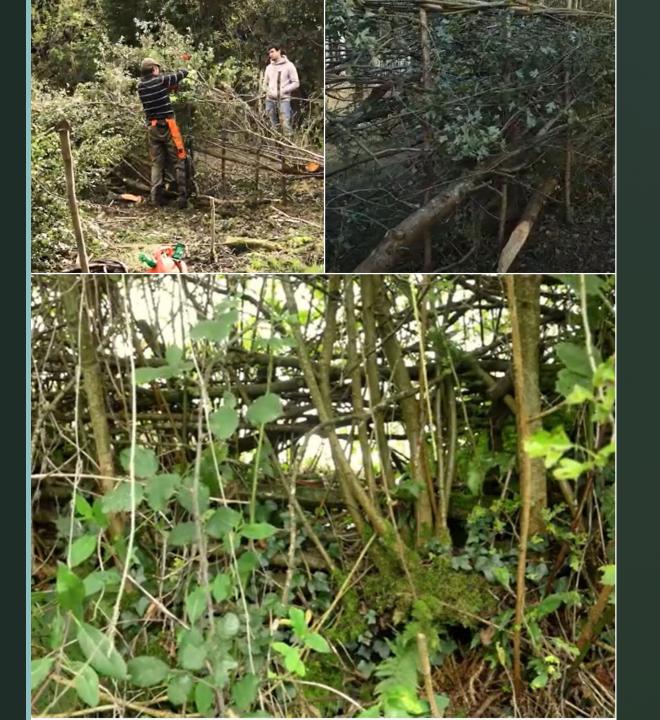


'Farm Carbon' research project calculating carbon sequestration capability of hedgerows funded by Teagasc & EPA



Hedgerow Management

- Hedges cut annually less biomas
- Bigger hedge better for Biodiversity & carbon sequestration
- IF appropriately
 managed hedgerows
 can take CO₂ from the
 atmosphere



Hedge laying

Plashing – making a cut into stem and 'laying' it over; stem is still living and will encourage new growth
a win for Biodiversity and a win for carbon calculating

Coppicing – cutting and removing stem to encourage new shoots

Hedgerows – some stats



300,000km / 680,000 km hedgerows in Ireland = 5 -10% of landcover

It takes a hedgerow 20-50 years to reach carbon and Biodiversity goals

Hedgerow potential to absorb 0.66 – 3.3t CO₂/ha/ year

Hedgerows – Key messages



Value of hedgerows for Biodiversity & Climate Adaptation are linked

Takes years to establish hedgerow – manage existing hedgerows for future

Nature Based Solutions

- Flood alleviation
 - -Shelter -
- Carbon sequestration





A view over the hedge:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtETp9Giu0E

Hedging Carbon:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoJwqX_-ek8







Sources & further information

General:

- https://hedgerowsireland.org/
- https://hedgelaying.ie/
- https://www.teagasc.ie/environment/biodiversity-countryside/farmland-habitats/hedgerows/hedgerowweek-/
- https://www.farmingfornature.ie/resources/bestpractice-guides/hedgerow-management/
- https://ptes.org/hedgerow/what-have-hedgerows-everdone-for-us/

How Hedges can help Climate Action: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEiF4d8ULIc

