

# Living Fence Block Template

Densely spaced - 20'x15' - 8-10 years

**Reason:** Livestock exclusion, privacy

**Key Plant Characteristics:** Livestock support & browse, Shade-providing / canopy-forming, Tall evergreen plants, Thicket-forming / dense woody structure, Thorns, prickles/prickly foliage, spurs

**Spacing / Plant #:** Mixed height, high density



## Trees

- 1 ● *Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*  
Shore Pine  
Evergreen tree
- 1 ♥ *Salix* spp.  
Willow species  
Deciduous tree
- 1 ▼ *Crataegus suksdorfii*  
Black Hawthorn  
Deciduous tree

## Recommended alternatives

*Malus fusca* - Pacific Crabapple  
*Fraxinus latifolia* - Oregon Ash (especially when wet)  
*Alnus rubra* - Red Alder  
*Picea sitchensis* - Sitka Spruce  
*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa* - Black Cottonwood

## Large Shrubs

- 3 + *Mahonia aquifolium*  
Tall Oregon-grape  
Evergreen shrub
- 4 \* *Morella californica*  
Pacific Wax-myrtle  
Evergreen shrub

## Recommended alternatives

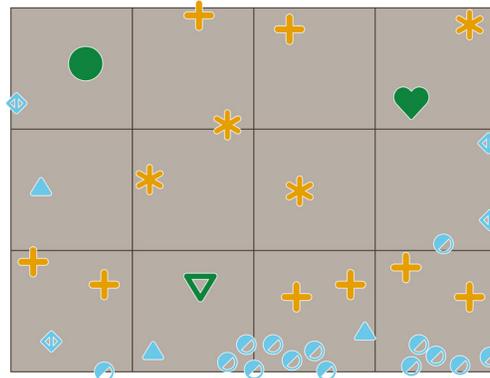
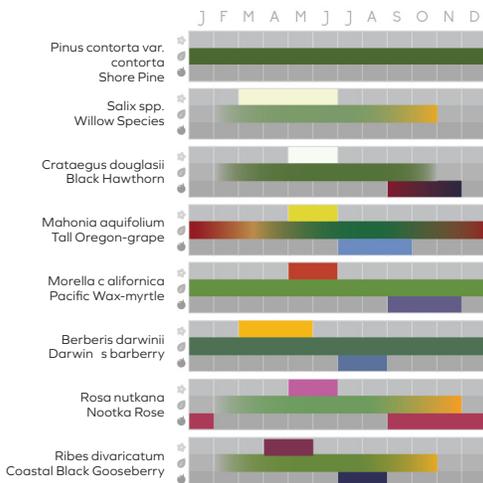
*Physocarpus capitatus* - Pacific Ninebark  
*Viburnum tinus* - Laurustinus

## Medium/low Shrubs

- 4 ◆ *Berberis darwinii*  
Darwin's Barberry  
Deciduous shrub
- 3 ▲ *Rosa nutkana* / *R. pisocarpa*  
Nootka or Clustered Wild Rose  
(Based on soil conditions)  
Deciduous shrub
- 15 ● *Ribes divaricatum*  
Coastal Black Gooseberry  
Deciduous shrub

## Recommended alternatives

*Rubus parviflorus* - Thimbleberry  
*Symphoricarpos albus* - Snowberry



## Notes:

A living fence (aka shelterbelt) can provide a few very different benefits for livestock. A core of dense, browse-deterrent, thicket-forming shrubs works as a barrier, while a palatable edge provides forage with needed minerals and nutrients. Willow bark provides selenium, zinc, and salicin (an analgesic); hazel contains copper; many trees contain condensed tannins, which provide protein and parasite control.<sup>64</sup>

As the hedgerow matures, lower branches may become sparser as lower branches get shaded from above. Maintain density and ensure the thicket qualities that form a barrier are preserved in the lower levels of the planting over time by planting species recommended on the Sortable Plant Options Table under category 4. "Understory Shrubs/Ferns for Shade."

In addition to inclusion of plants that provide beneficial browse, **exclude** plants that are potentially harmful to livestock. Avoid including both wild

and cultivated cherries & plums (*Prunus* spp.); apples & crabapples (*Malus* spp.); and pears (*Pyrus* spp.). These three genera contain cyanogenic glycosides, chemical compounds that release hydrogen cyanide when chewed or digested (see Appendix C).

## Design tips:

- Place along paddock divisions & perpendicular to the prevailing winds.
- Living fences designed for shading are best oriented east to west, but for winter protection, north-to-south orientation is best. However, if winter protection is needed but the only possible orientation runs east to west, then favor planting more deciduous shrubs and trees to prevent frost pockets and allow more sunlight.
- Gaps from underperforming, dead or dying plants undermine the hedgerow's function and must be replanted with fast-growing species immediately.