

Laurus - Growing Guide

Growing Laurus

Bay tree, Sweet bay

These evergreen shrubs, which are often grown alongside the herb garden, because of the culinary use of their leaves, can actually grow on (without any pruning) into small conical shaped trees. They originate from Mediterranean countries (*L. nobilis*) and the Azores (*L. azorica*). Obviously the former is rather hardier than the latter.

In a woodland garden context we often use bay trees as an inner windbreak behind *Ilex* oaks and *Pinus insignis*. When these larger trees develop they can let in the wind lower down. A thick hedge of *L. nobilis* serves to break this under-draft and is very effective. Certainly there may be a little leaf scorching and the odd snapped branch after a severe salty gale, but these plants can easily cope with this and reshoot sometimes from below some dieback. Cold drying easterly winds may present more of a problem to *L. nobilis* than salt laden westerlies. However, once or twice, we have seen odd plants caught out in a cold corner. Chop them back to live growth (even to ground level) and they will reshoot vigorously.



Laurus nobilis as
windbreak



Laurus pruning



Laurus pruning



Laurus nobilis



Laurus nobilis



Laurus nobilis



Laurus nobilis 'Aurea'



Laurus azorica



Laurus azorica



Laurus azorica



Laurus azorica



Laurus azorica

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