

## Taxus - Care Guide

### Growing Taxus

#### *English yew*

Burncoose stocks a number of forms of *Taxus baccata* with different growth habits and different foliage colours. The English yew is an iconic tree in many churchyards where it was grown specifically to produce wood for bows in medieval times. It is ideal for clipping into a hedge or more elaborate topiary designs which take an enormous amount of time to clip and maintain.

Those attempting an instant yew hedge with larger plants will be surprised at the cost. This is a slow growing tree! The temptation is therefore to purchase larger and cheaper root balled yews rather than more expensive and smaller pot grown ones. The problem with root balled yews is that you are far more likely to get a few failures in the new hedge especially in a dry summer than with smaller pot grown trees. When preparing the ground for a yew hedge it needs to be double dug with two layers of dung and the soil around the young hedge trees needs to be heavily mulched as well to preserve moisture and get the plants off to a good start.

The toxicity of yew berries to children or tortoises/rabbits housed under a yew tree must not be underestimated. All parts of yew trees are toxic. This is another reason why yew trees were grown in churchyards out of the reach of cattle and sheep.

Seeds from female yew trees can be sown in containers in cold frames once ripe. The seed may take more than one year to germinate.

*T. baccata*, if allowed to grow to its full height as a tree over, say, 10 decades, might achieve a height of 70ft with a spread of more than half that. Yellow male flower cones appear in spring and the juicy red fruits in September to October.



T. baccata &  
Eccremocarpus scaber



T. baccata 'Elegantissima'



T. baccata 'Dovastonii  
Aurea'



T. baccata 'Dovastonii  
Aurea'



T. baccata 'Dovastonii  
Aurea' & Picea pungens  
'Koster'



Taxus baccata 'Fastigata'



T. baccata 'Fastigiata'  
'Aureomarginata'



T. baccata 'Repens  
Aurea'



T. baccata 'Repens  
Aurea'



T. baccata 'Semperaurea'



T.baccata 'Semperaurea'



T. baccata 'Semperaurea'



T. baccata 'Semperaurea'

*T. baccata* 'Standishii' is a narrow columnar female form of 'Fastigiata' with



*T. baccata* 'Standishii'



*T. baccata* 'Standishii'



*T. baccata* 'Standishii'



*T. baccata* 'Standishii' &  
*Berberis valvidiana*



*T. baccata* 'Standishii' &  
*Berberis valvidiana*



*T. baccata* 'Standishii' &  
*Chamaecyparis nana*  
*gracilis*



*T. baccata* 'Standishii' &  
*Chamaecyparis*  
*Tetragona aurea*

Annual hedge trimming of your *Taxus* (yew) hedge will keep it looking good and under control.

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/Cob1ZRm-aR8>

### **Poisonous Yew Seeds In Autumn - Video Tip**

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/f9P2iKAoG9c>

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