

Hanham Hall

HTA Practice Note

Climber Planting for Timber Screens - 24.02.2016



This practice note has been prepared to provide the residents of Hanham Hall some suggestions of suitable species of climbing plants which could be trained up the timber trellis/screen elements found on a number of unit types across the development.

The covenant within the title deeds of the properties requires the screens to be treated every 7 years to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the shading they provide the homes and therefore maintain the performance of the buildings. Should residents wish to train climbing plants up these screens there are a number of issues to take into account;

General:

To maximise the performance of the buildings the climbers should assist with providing extra shading in summer but allow sunlight into the home in winter and as such we would recommend that only deciduous species (those which drop their leaves in winter) are used.

Climbing Habit:

Climbers typically fall into 2 categories in their climbing habit; winders and aerial rooting (also known as 'self clinging' or surface rooting). As the screens provide a robust framework for the plants to grow up winding plants are recommended. We would not recommend using aerial rooting plants which physically attach themselves into the structure up which they are growing and can cause significant damage and would in this instance reduce the effective lifespan of the screens. Some surface rooting species of climbers to avoid are;

- Hedera (Ivy)
- Parthenocissus spp.(Boston ivy & Virginia creeper)
- Fallopia baldschuanica (Russian vine or Mile-a-Minute)
- Pileostegia viburnoides (Climbing hydrangea)
- Campsis spp.(Trumpet vine)

Speed of growth / Lifespan:

Due to the stipulation in the covenant, plants which reach their maximum size more quickly will provide greater benefits to the homes. The screens are relatively high and it may be difficult to get a good coverage of planting within the required time frame if only planted into the ground. If greater coverage is desirable then planting into containers located on balconies would be a method for increasing overall coverage. The plants we have recommended would all achieve their mature size within the required 7 years.

Alternatively, if any residents wish to achieve more variety in the planting on their home then the use of annual climbers in place of hanging baskets could be an interesting option. These plants tend to provide more flowers than a shrubby climber but lose their form after one year and, whilst can be treated as perennials, are better if replaced annually. Some plants to consider for this use are;

- Lablab purpureus
- Lathyrus odoratus
- Ipomoea purpurea
- Rhodochiton atrosanguineus
- Thunbergia alata

-Information obtained from Royal Horticultural Society website; www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=590

Ecological Benefits:

In line with the ecological credentials of the development native or wildlife attracting plants would be preferable. Especially vigorous climbers should be avoided as they are typically non-native and can sometimes be invasive.

HTA RECOMMENDATIONS - Information taken from RHS website

Solanum crispum 'Glasnevin'

Potato tree



Characteristics Foliage Semi-evergreen Habit Climbing Fragrance Flower Toxicity Ingestion may cause severe discomfort Hardiness H4	Colour Colour in Autumn flower fruit foliage Colour in Spring foliage Colour in Summer flower foliage Colour in Winter foliage	Sunlight Aspect South-facing or East-facing Exposure Sheltered	Soil Sand Clay Chalk Moisture Moist but well-drained Soil Sand, Clay, Chalk pH Alkaline, Neutral	Size Ultimate height 4-8 metres Ultimate spread 1-1.5 metres Time to ultimate height 5-10 years
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Humulus lupulus 'Aureus'

Golden hop



Characteristics Foliage Deciduous Habit Climbing Fragrance Flower Hardiness H6	Colour Colour in Autumn fruit Colour in Spring foliage Colour in Summer flower flower	Sunlight Aspect South-facing or West-facing Exposure Sheltered	Soil Loam Chalk Clay Moisture Moist but well-drained Soil Loam, Chalk, Clay pH Acid, Alkaline, Neutral	Size Ultimate height 4-8 metres Ultimate spread 1.5-2.5 metres Time to ultimate height 2-5 years
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Lonicera peryclymenum 'Graham Thomas'

Climbing honeysuckle



Characteristics Foliage Deciduous Habit Climbing Fragrance Flower Hardiness H5	Colour Colour in Autumn foliage fruit Colour in Spring foliage Colour in Summer foliage flower flower	Sunlight Aspect South-facing or West-facing or East-facing or North-facing Exposure Sheltered or Exposed	Soil Chalk Clay Sand Loam Moisture Moist but well-drained Soil Chalk, Clay, Sand, Loam pH Acid, Alkaline, Neutral	Size Ultimate height 4-8 metres Ultimate spread 1-1.5 metres Time to ultimate height 5-10 years
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For further information on plant aftercare and pruning methods refer to: www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=380#section-3