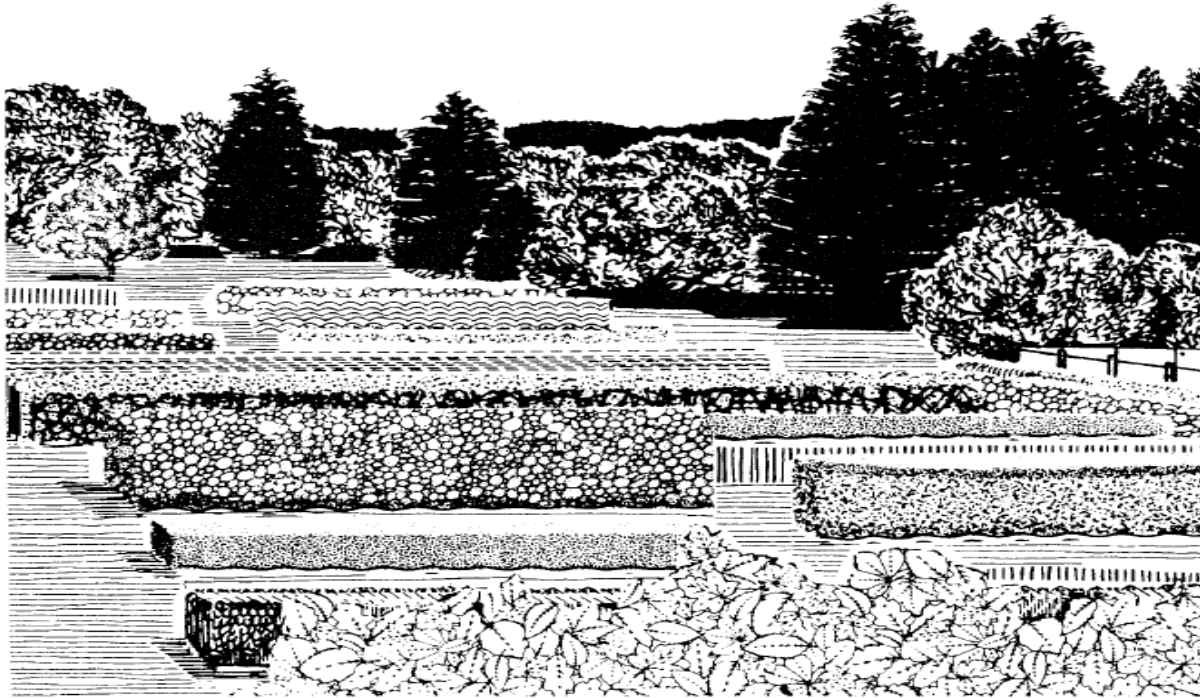


# Hedge



# Purposes and Uses of Hedges

- Form a barrier or division
- Mark boundaries
- Provide privacy
- Background to garden displays
- Give design emphasis
- Separate one area from another where desirable

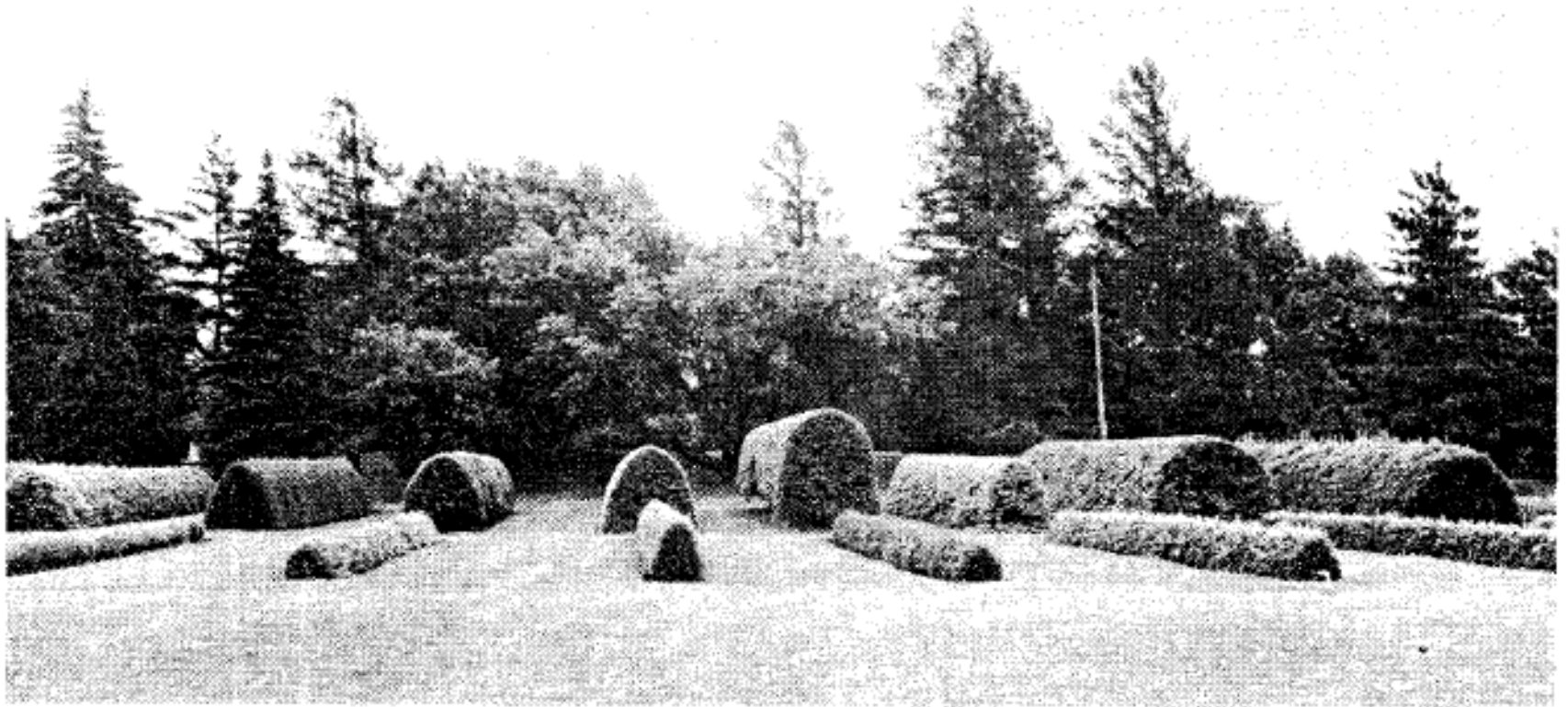


Figure 1 Hedges may be of many sizes and shapes.

# General Guidelines

- End hedge in fixed object such as a building or a mass planting
- Screen an unattractive view
- Emphasize color of plantings against green of clipped hedge
- Alter apparent dimensions of property
- Outline or give character to flower beds
- Use flowering shrubs, requiring less pruning but more space, for color

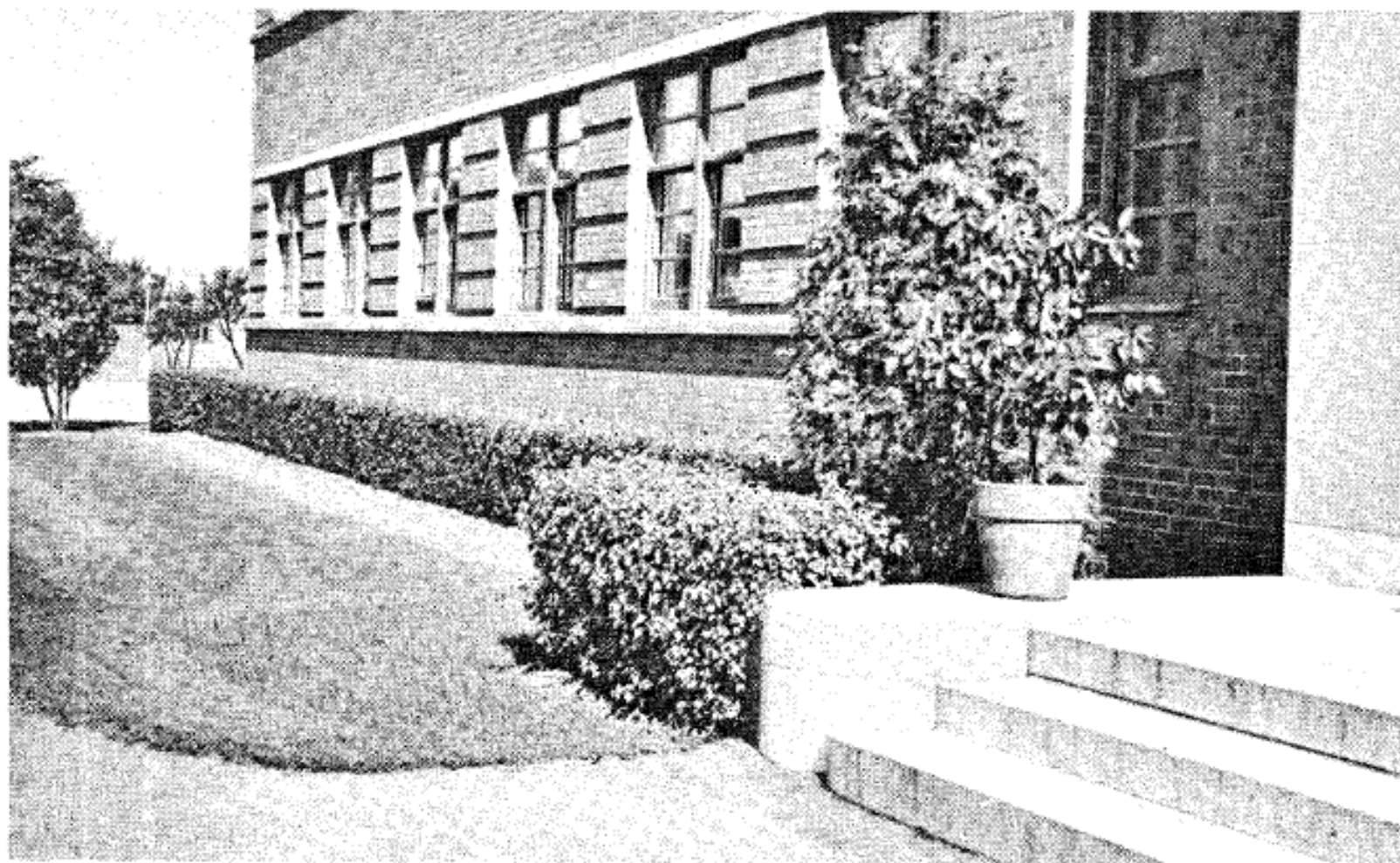


Figure 2 Clipped hedges are suitable as accents for long, low buildings.

# Hedge Selection

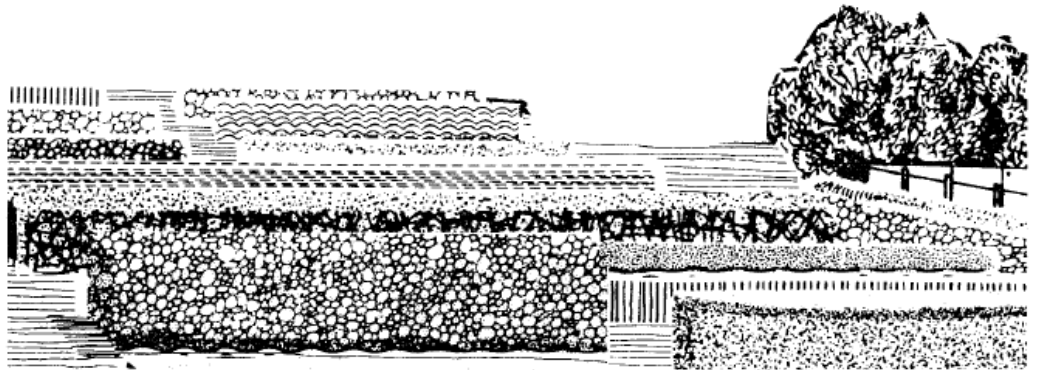
- Evergreen or deciduous
- Height at maturity
- Texture and Color of plants
- Casual or Formal Look
- Type of Soil
- Amount of Light
- Neighborhood Animals
- Rate of Growth



Figure 3 Flowering hedges are more informal.

# Planting Your Hedge

- Time of Year
- Plant Size
- Placement
- Spacing
- Setting the Plants





# Planting--Time

- Time of Year
  - Deciduous—spring before buds or  
October after leaves have fallen
  - Evergreens—May or September
  - Cedar or arborvitae—may be moved  
at almost any time if well-watered

# Planting--Size

- Plant size
  - Deciduous:
    - 2 years old grown from seed
    - Cuttings cut back at end of first season's growth
    - (Tall, spindly plants should be cut to ground)
  - Evergreens:
    - Four-year-old seedlings, no trimming

Note: May use larger plants if they are bushy to the ground

# Planting--Location

- Placement
  - On property line if common project between two neighbors
  - 75-100 cm inside line if one owner's property
  - Check city laws governing set-backs

# Planting--Preparation

- Soil Preparation

- Trench 40-50 cm deep and 50-60 wide
- Topsoil on one side, subsoil on other side
- 5-10 cm layer thoroughly rotted barnyard leaf mold or manure in bottom of trench
- Turn manure or mold into subsoil with fork
- Cover with 5-10 cm topsoil before planting
- String line 15 cm to one side of hedge center

# Planting--Spacing

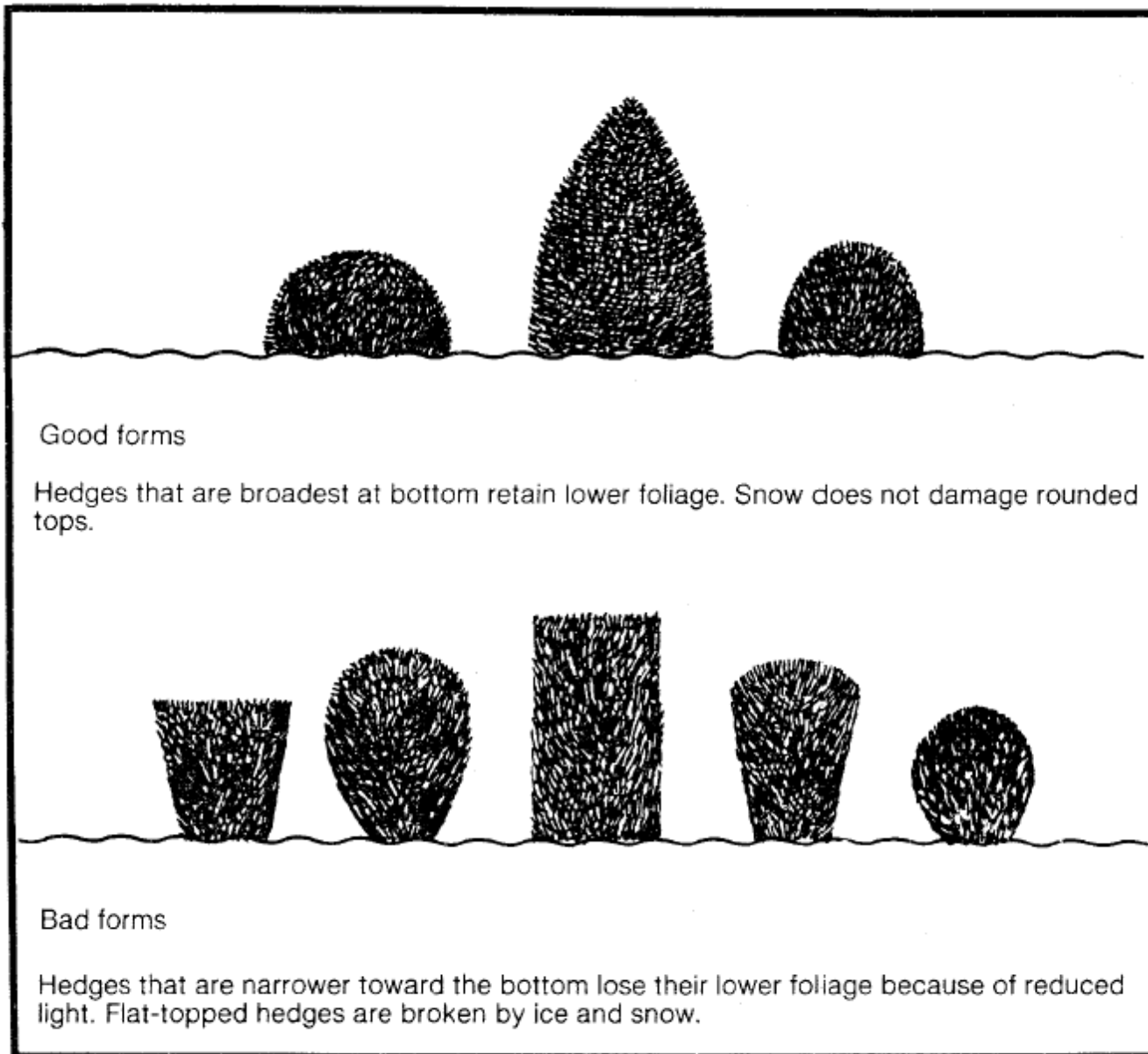
- Single-row or staggered double row planting more satisfactory
  - Single row more satisfactory
  - Staggered double row sometimes used takes many more plants and is harder to trim causing higher mortality and difficult replacement
- Distance varies with kind and ultimate height
  - 50 cm apart for 100-200 cm height
  - 15-20 cm apart for pyramidal plants
  - 75-100 cm for taller hedges, particularly screens and windbreaks

# Planting—setting plants

- Set slightly deeper than formerly growing
- Space evenly, using a guide
- Space same distance from string
- Gently shake up and down to loosen soil
- Prevent fine roots from drying
- Cover with wet material while planting, placing one at a time in trench
- Cover roots after whole row is placed with topsoil
- Soak ground thoroughly
- Fill with remainder of earth, leaving ridge to facilitate watering

# Trimming Your Hedge

- At time of planting
  - Cut back to a point 5-10 cm above base of past season's growth
  - Repeat following year if dense growth to ground is desired
  - Never cut conifers past young tips
- Trim or Clip when smooth, dense surface is desired
  - Use shears or electric clippers
  - Distinct difference from thinning or pruning



Good forms

Hedges that are broadest at bottom retain lower foliage. Snow does not damage rounded tops.

Bad forms

Hedges that are narrower toward the bottom lose their lower foliage because of reduced light. Flat-topped hedges are broken by ice and snow.

Figure 4 Hedge shapes, correct and incorrect.



# Later Trimming

- Yearly trim top and sides at least once a year until maturity
  - Rapid growth before trimming gives thick top and thin open sides
  - May be trimmed at almost any time of year except when wood is frozen or during hot, dry spell
- Fast growing shrubs may require twice or more yearly trims to keep them looking neat
- Evergreens vary as have later growth
  - Trim pine, spruce, hemlock middle of July
  - Trim Young pine with knife in mid-June
  - Cedar finished active growth in September

# Trimming for Shape

- Shape
  - Round or pointed top preferable as flat tops may be broken by ice and snow
  - Sides trimmed to be wider at base than at top to keep lower foliage healthy
  - Cut back close to base of current season's growth when reaches maintenance height (grow only 3-5 cm in height and width yearly)
  - May be cut in topiary or buttress shapes

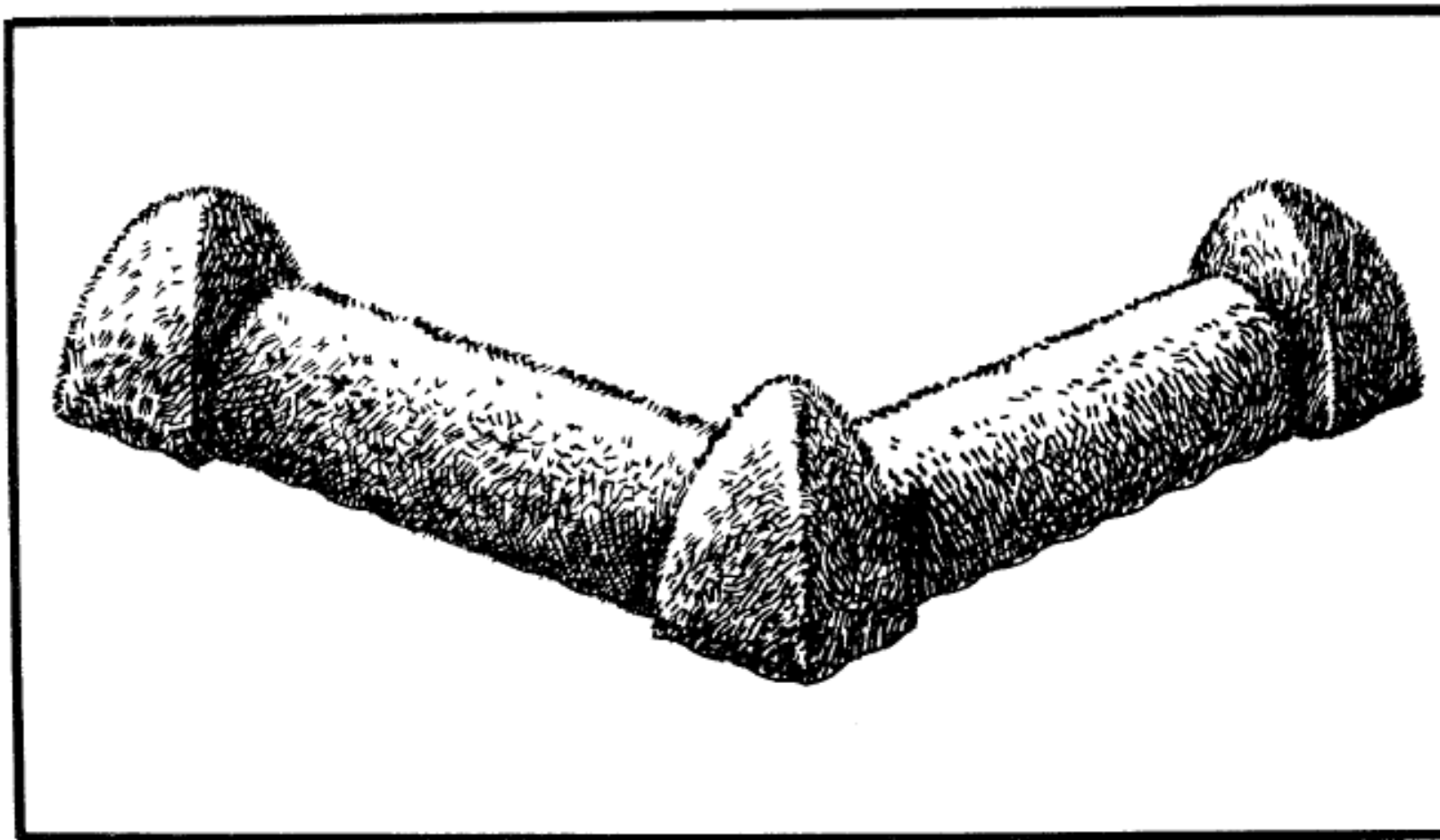


Figure 5 Diagram of a buttressed hedge.

# Trimming Flowering Hedges

- Trim as soon as possible after flowering
- Use knife or secateurs, removing individual branches
- Thin only sufficient wood to prevent shrub from growing beyond bounds of uniform line
- Cut below laterals that have borne flowers, but above point at which new growth will provide next year's flowers

# Trimming Neglected Hedges

- Cut back severely in early spring for revival in few years
- Use secateurs to remove all dead wood and cut back individual thick branches 50 cm or more below desired height
- Cut off younger wood on sides and top 15-25 cm below desired height
- This allows new growth to make dense surface

# Trimming Neglected Evergreens

- Evergreens do not readily put out new foliage from old wood—will not recover well
- May try to cut out main leaders 30 cm below desired height for cedars, spruce, or yews
- Tie branches from sides together to fill gap
- In time, branches will stay in place and new shoots will gradually fill in space
- Slow process, wiser to remove hedge and plant new one

# Feeding Hedges

- Further feeding necessary for continued health after planting
- Add organic mulches amended with general purpose chemical fertilizer and spread over ground beneath hedge
- One m cubed mulch and 2 kg fertilizer for 20 m of hedge
- Feed only every 2 or 3 years after established to prevent too rapid growth

# Diseases and Insects

Arborvitae, cedars, birches, linden and lilacs  
subject to attack by leaf-miners

- Hawthorns attacked by same insects as apple
- Lilac and honeysuckle when crowded or shaded develop mildew
- Spirea and Siberian elm suffer wood-rotting fungi at the base
- Siberian elm susceptible to Dutch elm disease



# Disease and Pest Control

- Contact Sprays may control sucking insects such as aphid
- Stomach poisons may control biting insects
- Sprays will not cure fungus diseases but will prevent spread of disease
- Contact extension services for advice on identification and control of diseases and insects