

Cooling	Pollutant trapping	Rainfall capture
large leaf area	large leaf area	large leaf area
presence of leaf hairs	presence of leaf hairs	presence of leaf hairs
light leaf colour	rough surfaces	rough surfaces
high ET rate		high ET rate

References

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Hedges for urban gardens

Urban residents routinely face a range of environmental challenges: air pollution, noise, increased risk of flooding due to paving over.

Urban hedgerows and hedges in domestic gardens have a role to play in minimising these risks and improving environmental quality.

Key environmental benefits (“ecosystem services”) provided by urban vegetation, including hedges:

- Reducing flood risks
- Sequestering particulate and gaseous airborne pollutants as well as soil-borne chemical pollutants
- Reducing noise
- Providing habitat, shelter and corridors for wildlife
- Providing shade and transpirational air cooling

Recent RHS research and collaborative work has shown