

Autumn Gold Tree Care

Hazel

This is currently a well-balanced and attractive tree growing from multiple stems close to the fenced property boundary and adjacent to a slightly smaller cherry laurel. You have advised that your neighbour has requested that the degree of overhang of both the hazel and the cherry laurel be reduced, and you would like the height and sideways extension into your garden reduced also.

Management

Hazel is a fast-growing tree and will generally respond to being cut by sending out multiple long straight stems from the cut stem or the root stool at or below the point that it is cut. Because of this the predominant method of managing hazel is to coppice on a 5-10 year rotation. This involves cutting each stem to within 5cm of the ground. Resultant re-growth can then be thinned according to the required density and direction of growth.



Example of Hazel in Winter, 5 years on from coppicing

If this is deemed too radical in this case then an alternative would be to remove selected stems (i.e. those closest to the fence and those overhanging into the garden and reduce the retained stems back to a manageable height. Note that re-growth can be expected from the points that the stems are reduced back to. This will be likely to be vigorous, so to avoid top-heavy growth reduction cuts should be made just above where the thick woody stems branch out. The result will resemble a pollard.

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Cherry laurel

Adjacent and competing with the hazel for space, light and nutrients. This is a vigorous and resilient shrub and will tolerate hard pruning.

Management

Remove any woody branches that do not contribute to desired shape and direction of growth, particularly any that produce top-growth solely on neighbour's side of fence. Resolve crossing branches and erratic growth within the lower canopy. Reduce remaining stems back to suitable side branches or buds to yield the size and shape indicated. Reduce growth over fence to maximum 15cm overhang.



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Cotoneaster tree (poss. *Cotoneaster cornubia*)

This is a vigorous shrub with an erratic growth habit.

Management (as per cherry laurel)

Remove any woody branches that do not contribute to desired shape and direction of growth, particularly any that produce top-growth solely on neighbour's side of fence. Resolve crossing branches and erratic growth within the lower canopy. Reduce remaining stems back to suitable side branches or buds to yield the size and shape indicated. Reduce growth over fence to maximum 15cm overhang.

