

HEDGES IN THE FLOWER GARDEN



Unless hedge plants are well furnished to the ground when planted they should be pruned hard back to encourage a mass of shoots low down. This 2-year-old hedge of *Euonymus japonica variegata* has become bare at the base through lack of correct pruning.

drained positions. On sandy, dry, or continuously moist soils extra care must be taken in the selection. Tender plants should not be planted in cold climates and salt-resistant varieties are necessary near the sea.

Planting

Probably no other group of plants receives such scant attention as hedges at planting time. As a rule the first thought of owners of new sections is to plant hedges, and plants are put in with little or no soil preparation. Too often the result is that many die and the remainder struggle on but never make satisfactory hedges. It is far better to miss a season so that the position can be prepared, for in the end a satisfactory hedge will be established in a shorter time. A hedge is a permanent feature of the garden and deserves the best treatment. Drainage is essential and should be attended to first, but tile drains should not be laid beneath or near hedges, because roots soon block the tiles.

At least 2 months before the usual planting season a 2ft. wide strip should be dug as deep as the topsoil allows and the subsoil loosened. A good dressing of a balanced fertiliser should be worked in and some organic matter



A well-trimmed escallonia hedge. →
The neat appearance would be improved by the removal of the old fence posts. At the end of the lawn a tall hedge of *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* is used as a background to the flower garden.