

Screening Bettws Newydd.

Is it possible to rapidly screen Bettws Newydd using semi-mature or mature trees? Note that "heavy standard specimens (of trees) from 2 - 6.5 m high" are proposed.

Here's what a definitive work from the Royal Horticultural Society says (our highlighting):

Extract from "Seaside Gardening" by F. W. Shepherd
The Royal Horticultural Society: A Wisley Handbook
First Published 1990 ISBN 0-304-31967-8

Note: F. W. Shepherd was the first director of Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station in Cornwall, and holder of the highest RHS award, the Victoria Medal of Honour).

"Damage from wind: - The most important feature of the seaside climate is undoubtedly the wind. It is stronger when coming in over the uninterrupted surface of the sea and it picks up salt spume from the waves and, in some places, fine sand from the shore to add to its damaging abilities. Wind may bend, break, scorch, tear and uproot plants and some of this damage is increased when salt and sand are included in the assault. Damage by wind allows fungus disease to enter and spread more readily in many plants. The spores of some fungi causing plant diseases can only enter the plant through damaged tissue and this is often found on leaves, branches, flowers and fruit that have been exposed to strong winds. At the same time, the moister atmosphere by the sea improves the conditions in which diseases thrive.

Wind-shaped thorns and other trees on the coast is nearly always the result of pruning by the wind, perhaps only once a year, when really strong salt-laden gales kill or shorten all new growth directly exposed to it. After such wind-pruning, the unexposed twigs and branches will continue to grow more or less horizontally to leeward and the well known leaning tree will develop.

It must not be thought that winds only flow onshore or from one direction. Even with the so-called prevailing winds, it is rare for more than 40% of the wind to come from one of the four quarters of the compass, or more than 25% from the southwest, which is usually the source of the strongest and most frequent winds. Strong winds can and do come from all quarters. Overland winds may bring less damage than the salt-laden sea winds but, in winter when from the north and east, they may carry snow and frost that are equally damaging.

Trees in windy situations are best planted as young seedlings or even younger plants from cuttings. Older, large trees have too much top in relation to the amount of root, making them likely to be blown over by strong winds, and staking is expensive and often useless in exposed positions. The seedlings may be described as 1+ 1 plants in catalogues, which means that they have spent one year in the seed bed and one year lined out before being lifted for planting in their permanent positions.

Young plants should have the opportunity of making good new root systems before the tops become too large and top-heavy. They will benefit from protection in the early years when establishing themselves and also need to be kept clean and free from weeds."