



PRACTICALITY BROWN

FACT SHEET: TOPIARY

We can supply a range of topiary for decorative or screening purposes.

Topiary

Topiary has been used historically in many different European gardening styles, from early Roman gardens through to modern day. From box balls to yew 'peacocks', it is so versatile and striking that many are inspired to create their own piece of living architecture; there is always room for a clipped masterpiece.

Topiary is the art of training plants (typically evergreen shrubs and trees) into intricate or stylized shapes and forms, which can be the culmination of years of work. Plants trained in this way will require regular maintenance to maintain the form and structure with topiary shears or hedge-cutters; suckers and unwanted branches can also be removed. The term may also be used more loosely to describe a number of garden features that rely on the close clipping and shaping of plants, including:

- **Parterre:** A style of hedging associated with lavish Italian renaissance gardens with beautifully ornate clipped box hedges swirling around them in mirrored patterns or geometric designs.
- **Mazes and labyrinths:** The Normans introduced pleasure gardens with mazes and labyrinths formed from clipped plants; there are some modern examples in private and public gardens today.
- **Knot gardens:** Formed from different coloured box planted in crisscrossing patterns so that it appeared that the ribbons of hedges had been tied up in knots, these became popular in Tudor times.
- **Cloud Trees:** This is a Japanese method of training trees and shrubs into shapes resembling clouds.

Evergreens enable the design to remain a permanent feature throughout the seasons. Typically box (*Buxus sempervirens*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*) are used; however other evergreens such as privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*), holly (*Ilex*) and *Lonicera nitida* can be used. In general, the more complex the topiary, the longer will have taken to create and consequently more expensive.



Example of prices

Variety	Type	Size	Price
Box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Cube	40cm x 40cm x 40cm	£60
Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	Ball	60cm high	£160
Box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Spiral	120cm high	£260
Japanese white pine <i>Pinus pentaphylla</i>	Cloud tree	2.5-3m high	£7,500

NB Prices exclude VAT at 20% and delivery, call us for a detailed quote.