

*Carpinus betulus* 'Hornbeam' - pleached

Adding an air of sophistication and structure to the garden, *C. betulus*, pleached at 1.8m creates a vertical layer of interest as the hedge on its 'stilts' forms a broken swath encircling the central star shaped motif known as the Marian Star. Standing at around 2.8 meters tall, grey trunks support the canopy of conspicuously ribbed leaves which turn yellow in the autumn and cling to the branches throughout the winter. A strong constant in the design, the hornbeam is the foundational pivot of the design, providing a central point of stillness at the heart of the garden.



*Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'*

The crisp sharpness of the pleached hornbeam and holly backdrop is softened by the feathery flower heads of *C. x a 'Karl Foerster'*, balancing this planting with ease. 'Karl Foerster' is a perennial grass named after the man who introduced this species to the general public. Planted behind the points of the Marion star, this striking grass makes a nearly 2 metre intermittent screen when in full flower by early summer. Bright green leaves emerge from the ground, establishing itself as a valuable additional for colour. The distinct contrast between the golden-beige flower stalks and the spear-like leaves form a visually pleasing divide which draws the eye upwards to the dazzling and frothy flower heads. Even when not moved by any breeze this grass brings a pleasing sense of movement in contrast to the more static structures of the hornbeam and holly..





*Pyrus salicifolia* 'Pendula' 'Weeping Silver Pear'

This plant has much more hitting power than its small stature would suggest. *P. s* 'Pendula' is a valuable contributor to the overall garden aesthetic. Chalky silver-green leaves reminiscent of olive leaves, fall gracefully from the pinnacle of this 2.5 metre tall tree. Shaped purposefully into a mushroom, *P. s.* 'Pendula' carries itself with grace. The formality of its appearance is juxtaposed by the softness of the leaves and the white blossoms which emerge in early spring. Small pure white five petaled flowers entice native pollinators and wildlife, proving that formality and structure can go hand in hand with the natural and organic environment.

