

# HEDGE CUTTING DEROGATION

If you plan to have Oil Seed Rape or grass sown in the Autumn you may be eligible for a Hedge Cutting Derogation.

All you have to do is send the following information to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA):

1. SBI and business name
2. Either the land parcel reference numbers where the hedges or trees are located which are to be cut/trimmed or a map showing the sections of hedge or trees that are to be cut/trimmed; and
3. Any other supporting evidence, for example, photographs or diagrams

**Apply via Email:** [ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk) Put the subject heading as: "Cross Compliance Derogation"

**Apply via Post:** RPA, PO Box 352, Worksop S80 9FG

## HEDGE CUTTING DATES

You should not cut or trim hedges or trees between the dates of 1<sup>st</sup> March 1<sup>st</sup> September without a derogation. You may only apply for a derogation if you plan to cut hedges before any new grass lay or oil seed rape is sown in the Autumn.

Please see below the dates of when you should and should not cut hedges and trees, to comply with GAEC 7.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	You must not cut or trim hedges or trees from this date, but you can carry out hedge and tree coppicing and hedge laying from 1 March until 30 April. Fruit and nut trees in orchards, or trees acting as windbreaks in orchards, vineyards, hop yards or hop gardens are not included in the ban. (GAEC 7a and 7c)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	You must not carry out hedge or tree coppicing or hedge laying from this date. (GAEC7a and 7c)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> August</b>	If you have been granted a derogation by RPA, you may be able to cut or trim hedges throughout August, to sow oilseed rape or temporary grassland. (GAEC 7a)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	You can cut or trim hedges and trees from this date. (GAEC 7a and 7c)

### Exceptions

There are exceptions to the dates above which are as follows:

- Hedges or branches pose a risk for drivers on a public highway or private road
- Hedges or branches obstruct the path of a public right of way

If you plan to cut hedges or trees based on the criteria above we advise that photo evidence is taken in case of an inspection or complaint.