

Some people prefer to allow the willows to age naturally. Willow material will age to a silver-grey color, and therefore do not need to be treated with any kind of finish. If you wish, you can use a preservative to extend their life and should be painted on after the hurdles has had time to dry, depending on what kind of weather conditions, which can take a few weeks to a few months for the drying process.

There are three types of preservatives that can be used, a light colored creosote which is highly effective, but not plant friendly, or a water based preservative which is plant friendly but not as effective. Alternatively, the traditional method of preserving willow is to lightly paint a mixture of boiled linseed oil and turpentine 50/50. Another natural way of preserving hurdles is to allow larger leaf varieties of ivy to grow around the hurdle for semi-protection against weathering.

We recommend putting a coat of linseed oil or outdoor sealer to preserve peeled skin willow products in the outdoors.