

# Farmstead Windbreaks



Farmstead windbreaks apply the principles of windbreaks in general to the specific needs of protecting farm homes, buildings, equipment, and animals.

## How Do Farmstead Windbreaks Help?



## Other Benefits

### Moderate summer heat and winds

Windbreaks slow hot, drying winds, protecting people, equipment, animals, and even garden plots. The trees give off cooling evaporated water into the atmosphere and provide shade that lowers air and soil temperatures.

### Increase productivity

By reducing the adverse effects of both summer and winter winds, the farmstead is a more pleasant place to live in and work. Protected and unstressed animals produce more milk or meat with less feed and care.

### Beautify farmstead & landscape

A well-maintained windbreak can be a source of beauty and pride and recreation for its owner, contributing to your family's well being. A supplemental result of increased natural beauty is increased farm value.

### Reduce noise & dust

Windbreak vegetation reduces noise from nearby highways and farm equipment from adjacent fields. Dust from gravel roads or farming operations is filtered out.

### Attract songbirds and other wildlife

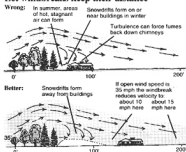
Berries, seeds, nuts and leaves supply needed food for birds and wildlife, and the dense vegetation provides protective cover and nesting sites.

## Developing a Farmstead Windbreak

### Maintain a continuous barrier

Any gap will serve as a wind funnel. It's better to run driveways around the windbreak, or angled through it so that a continuous barrier of vegetation is presented to the wind.

### Let windbreaks keep their distance



A windbreak planted too close to homes and structures can create more problems than it solves. In general, buildings should be no closer than 100 feet from the windward row of the windbreak, and areas to be protected should be within a downwind distance of 2 to 5 times the expected 20-year height of the tallest windbreak row.

## Planting and initial care



In areas with severe winter weather, spring planting is recommended because of increased soil moisture and a growing season during which the young trees can establish themselves. In areas with hot, dry summers and mild winters, fall planting may help trees to establish themselves during the winter. Watering young trees is also important in areas with a dry climate or extreme summer heat.

## Protecting and maintaining your windbreak

During the early years, weed control is essential. On dry sites or in semi-arid regions you may wish to consider a drip irrigation system and installing a wood barrier or mulch to retain soil moisture. After windbreaks mature, they need periodic thinning and removal or replacement of diseased trees to maintain them in a healthy state. Keep livestock fenced out at all times.

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