

Windbreak Maintenance Pointers
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We all are aware that once a windbreak is planted, there are important maintenance items that should be performed. The following checklist of items may help your field office customers to enhance the function and value of their windbreaks.

- Controlling weeds reduces plant stress, improves windbreak growth rates and can also reduce susceptibility to insect and disease damage.
- Replace dead trees and shrubs during the first three years of the windbreak. Gaps reduce the effectiveness of the windbreak and can also be an eyesore.
- Ensure that the irrigation system is operating properly during each growing season. Check for trees or shrubs that are getting too much as well as too little water.
- Inspect the windbreak often during the growing season to spot any insect or disease damage that may be taking place. Catch problems early and implement control measures.
- Inspect windbreak frequently for signs of animal damage. Find problems early and initiate control measures.
- Pruning windbreaks should be discouraged unless the health of the windbreak is at risk or safety is a factor. If pruning is necessary, use proper equipment and pruning techniques.
- If weed barrier fabric was installed on the windbreak, make sure that fabric is not damaging trees and shrubs by rubbing or girdling the trunk or stem. You may need to enlarge the slit in the fabric as trees and shrubs grow larger.

Plant Materials Technical Note No. 43, Tree Planting Care and Management provides guidance for establishing and management of woody planting practices. Be sure to review it for specific maintenance pointers.

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