

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
WINDBREAK/SHELTERBELT RENOVATION

(Feet)

CODE 650

DEFINITION

Replacing, releasing, and/or removing selected trees and shrubs or rows within an existing windbreak or shelterbelt, adding rows to the windbreak or shelterbelt, or removing selected tree and shrub branches.

PURPOSES

Restoring or enhancing the function of existing windbreaks or shelterbelts.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

In any windbreak or shelterbelt that is no longer functioning properly for the intended purpose.

CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used individually or in combination to accomplish windbreak or shelterbelt renovation:

- To reduce plant competition or alter the density of the planting, individual trees or shrubs will be identified for thinning.
- To remove diseased branches or alter the density of the planting, the trees will be pruned.
- To release adjacent rows of trees or shrubs, entire or partial rows of trees or shrubs will be identified and removed.
- To improve density and/or vigor of identified rows of trees or shrubs in decline; trees or shrubs will be cut close to the ground (coppice) to allow sprouting.
- To improve the growth and vigor of trees and shrubs, competing herbaceous vegetation will be mechanically or chemically controlled.

- To improve windbreak or shelterbelt density, additional rows of trees or shrubs will be added adjacent to or within an existing windbreak or shelterbelt.

Residual plants will be protected during the renovation.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations.

CONSIDERATIONS

Renovation may be accomplished over a period of years.

Debris should be removed from the site and disposed properly if the debris will cause insect, disease, fire, or operability problems.

Consider shade tolerance when selecting species for replanting within or adjacent to an existing windbreak or shelterbelt.

Wildlife needs should be considered when selecting tree or shrub species.

Consider cultural resources when planning this practice. This practice may adversely affect cultural resources and should comply with General Manual Title 420, Part 401, during planning, prior to installation, and during maintenance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The following actions shall be carried out to insure that this practice functions as intended

throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation) and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance):

- Competitive vegetation will be controlled when it inhibits the renewed growth and vigor of the windbreak or shelterbelt.
- Supplemental water will be provided as needed.
- The trees and shrubs will be inspected periodically and protected from adverse impacts including insects, diseases, or competing vegetation. The trees or shrubs will also be protected from fire and damage from livestock or wildlife.
- Additional thinning, pruning, or coppice management may be needed in the future to maintain function.
- Periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant vigor.
- Noxious plants will be controlled in accordance with State law.