

INTRODUCTION

SECTION II - WINDBREAK INTERPRETATIONS

Windbreaks protect livestock, buildings, and yards from wind and snow. They also protect fruit trees and gardens and they furnish habitat for wildlife. Several rows of low growing and high growing broadleaf and coniferous trees and shrubs provide the most protection.

Field windbreaks are narrow plantings made at right angles to the prevailing wind and at specific intervals across the field. The interval depends on the erodibility of the soil. Field windbreaks protect cropland and crops from wind, help to keep snow on the fields, and provide food and cover for wildlife.

Windbreaks are often planted on land that did not grow trees originally. Knowledge of how trees perform on such land can be gained only by observing and recording their performance where trees have been planted and survived. The problem is compounded by the fact that many favorite windbreak species are not indigenous to the areas in which they are planted.

Each tree or shrub species has certain climatic and physiographic limits. Within these parameters a tree or shrub may be well or poorly suited because of soil characteristics. Each tree or shrub also has definable potentials of height growth depending on the factors just mentioned. Accurate definitions of potential heights are necessary for proper windbreak planning and design.

Windbreak suitability groups can be used as a guide in planning windbreaks and screens.

The windbreak suitability groups for each soil map unit are listed under Section II on Table 1 in the Soils Legends Section.

See Part 537 of the National Forestry Manual for additional information.