

## Windbreak Interpretations

Farmstead 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, increase crop yields, and provide food and cover for wildlife.

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 based on the soil type and climate.

Information in this subsection, which includes windbreak suitability groups and a windbreak and environmental plantings table, can be used as a guide in planning windbreaks and screens.

*This subsection includes:*

- **(a) Windbreak and Environmental Plantings**