



EQIP 380- Windbreak/Shelterbelt PRACTICE GUIDELINES

EQIP FY 2009 Scenario:

Site prep, plant trees/shrubs (for windbreak); or,

Site prep, plant trees/shrubs w/staked tree tubes (for windbreak)

Practice Life: 15 years

Participant: _____

EQIP Contract Number: _____

Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Reduce soil erosion from wind.
- Protect plants from wind related damage.
- Improve air quality by reducing and intercepting air borne particulate matter, chemicals and odors.

Conditions for practice eligibility:

- **Windbreak/shelterbelt will solve an existing wind erosion problem on cropland, or will mitigate an animal waste odor/air quality problem around an animal operation.**

Minimum Practice Requirements:

- North Carolina Practice Standard for Windbreak/Shelterbelt (380) will be used.
- Review of windbreak planting and site preparation specifications by a professional forester is required, if the planner does not have appropriate design or construction job approval authority for the related tree planting or site prep involved.
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least \$1000.

Considerations for implementation of Windbreak/Shelterbelt

- Wildlife needs should be considered when selecting tree or shrub species. Species diversity, including use of native species, should be considered to avoid loss of function due to species-specific pests. Additionally, windbreak/shelterbelts can be used as corridors to connect existing patches of wildlife habitat
- When designing and locating a windbreak or shelterbelt, consider the impact upon the landowner's or public's view of the landscape.
- Selection of plants for use in windbreaks should favor species or varieties tolerant to herbicides used in the area.
- Plants that may be alternate hosts to undesirable pests should be avoided.
- Tree or shrub rows should be oriented on or near the contour where water erosion is a concern. Where water erosion and/or runoff from melting snow are a hazard, it should be controlled by supporting practices.
- Windbreaks for odor and chemical control increase in effectiveness as the amount of foliage available for intercept increases. Multiple rows, wide plantings offer greater interception potential than do smaller plantings.
- In cropping systems select windbreak and shelterbelt species that minimize adverse affects to crop growth (e.g. shade, allelopathy, competing root systems or root sprouts).
- Replace dead trees/shrubs until the windbreak/shelterbelt is functional.
- Supplemental water maybe needed during establishment.
- Thin or prune the windbreak/shelterbelt to maintain its function.

EQIP Practice Certification

I certify that _____ feet [_____component acres (nearest 0.1 ac.)] of Windbreak/Shelterbelt have been completed per these practice guidelines and NC NRCS 380-Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment standard.

Designated Conservationist Date

Certification/Comments
