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Trees Against the Wind Pacific Northwest
Extension Publication PNW 0005

Tree Windbreaks for Farms and Homes

Purdue University FNR 38

Wind and Snow Control Around the Farm

Purdue University NCR 191

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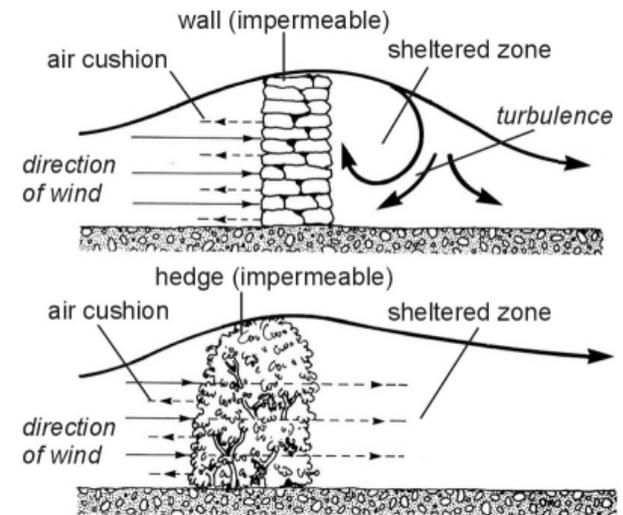


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K. Satnik, H. Foss, S. Swanson April 2017

Windbreaks



Design, install, maintain, enjoy—Windbreaks make life better

Kittitas County winds challenge home owners and gardeners during the spring and early summer. Windbreaks protect other plants, reduce the effects of the chilling winds, and improve the enjoyment of your acreage.

Reduced soil lost from wind

Keep your soil on your property.

Add aesthetic value and reduce unwanted street/neighbor noise

Trellises and fences provide a backdrop for plants and other features, and absorb sounds from other areas.

Decreased energy bills

When the wind is tamed, windows can be opened to cool down the house. Cold winds are decreased, lowering heating bills.

Attract game and song birds

Properly chosen trees or shrubs provide food and shelter. Fences, walls, and other structures provide a rest from the wind.

Improved crop performance

Bees are more numerous in orchards with windbreaks. Irrigation evaporation is reduced and fruit is less likely to be blown off trees.

Improved cattle performance

Can effectively reduce stress on animals resulting in healthier animals, lower death rates and lower feed costs. The shade can also benefit the animals during hot days, and warm them during cold weather.

Keys to Success

Whether using plants or fences, design is crucial.

Careful handling and planting of young trees.

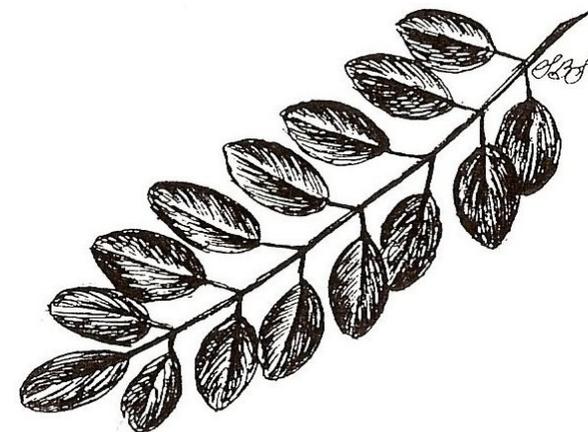
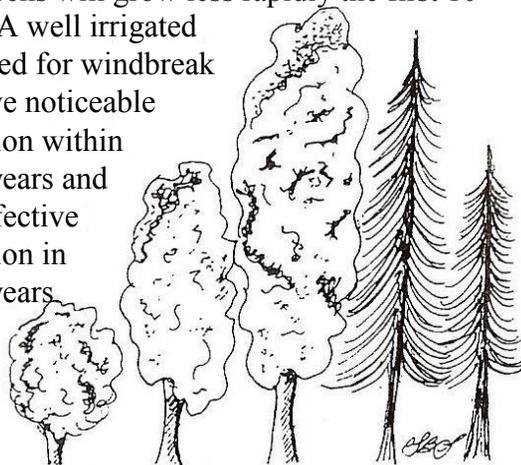
Adequate moisture - during hot weather, irrigate once a week. Heavy weed cover can rob the plantings of nutrients. Trees with weeds grown over them, will lack in growth.

Periodic inspection for insect, rodent and disease damage.

An improperly planted break can cause more problems than intended. Think of number of rows, spacing and species

Failures are due to inadequate care, poor cultivation practices such as an overabundance of weeds, lack of water and poor planning. Trees seldom perform well without care.

Evergreens will grow less rapidly the first 10 years. A well irrigated and cared for windbreak will give noticeable protection within 3 or 4 years and give effective protection in 7 or 8 years



Recommended Species

Shrubs

Siberian peashrub (*Caragana arborescens*)
Common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)
Mugho pine (*Pinus mugo*)

Deciduous Trees

Golden Willow (*Salix alba* var. *vitellina*)
Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*)
Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* var. *lanceolata*)
Black Locust (*Robina pseudoaccia*)
Hybrid Poplar (*Populus x spp.*)

Evergreen Trees

Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*)
Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
Norway spruce (*Picea abies*)
Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)