Windbreak

FACTSHEET SERIES: Field Windbreaks, Farmstead Shelterbelts & Living Snow Fences

Field Windbreaks

Farmstead Shelterbelts

Living Snow Fences

Living Snow Fences

Since 1954, the GRCA has worked with private landowners to achieve their environmental goals and enhance their property by planting trees. The GRCA has helped thousands of landowners plant more than 26 million trees.

Landowners in the watershed with more than one hectare (2.5 acres) of land exclusive of buildings are eligible to participate in the tree planting program. The trees are grown for their naturalization qualities and not their looks. They are available in a variety of sizes, ranging from seedlings through to bare root tall stock.

A Forestry Specialist from the Grand River Conservation Authority is available to help plan your tree planting project.

Our forestry extension service includes:

- A site visit for consultation and an assessment of the site characteristics.
- A planting plan outlining site preparation, species composition, design/layout, and future tending requirements.
- Assistance in accessing grant programs.
- Coordinating the planting of trees during the spring planting season.
- Follow up technical advice as needed.

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Grand River Conservation Authority

RBC®

For more information or to arrange a site visit contact one of the GRCA forestry specialists:

1-866-900-4722 (519) 621-2761
ruralwater@grandriver.ca

Living Snow Fences

Living Snow Fences

Improve winter driving safety and reduce snow removal costs by using a strip of trees to trap the snow blowing across open fields.

Double Row Cedar Living Snow Fence

OBJECTIVES

- Decrease snow drifts on the road.
- Improve winter driving safety.
- Improve crop yields.

STRATEGY

- Hand plant a double row of 1m tall, balled and burlapped cedars spaced 1.5m apart.
- The first row on the windward side is set back 35m from the road.

Three Row Spruce Living Snow Fence

OBJECTIVES

- Decrease snow drifts on the laneway.
- Decrease snow removal costs.

STRATEGY

- Hand plant three rows of white spruce seedlings at 2m spacing between trees and 2m spacing between rows.
- The first row on the windward side is set back 30m from the laneway.
- Leave a 10m gap on both ends for equipment access.

Single Row Spruce Living Snow Fence

OBJECTIVES

- Decrease snow drifts on the road.
- Improve winter driving safety.
- Improve crop yields.

STRATEGY

- Hand plant one row of 2 foot potted white spruce at 2.5m spacing.
- The row of trees is set back 40m from the road.
- Leave a 10m gap on both ends for equipment access.

Five Row Mixed Species Living Snow Fence

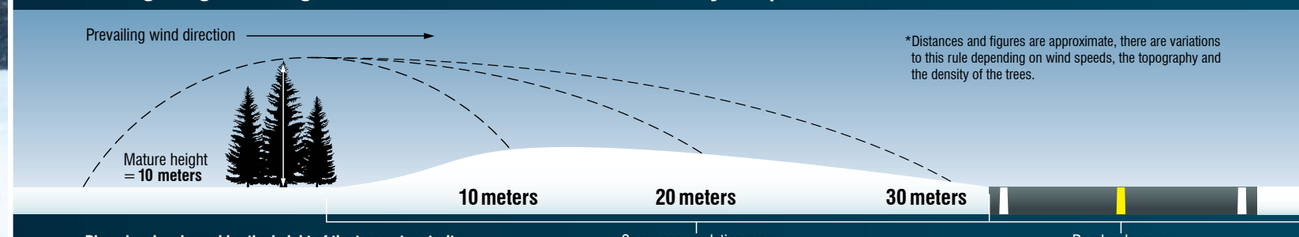
OBJECTIVES

- Decrease snow drifts on the laneway.
- Decrease snow removal costs.

STRATEGY

- Hand plant five rows of seedlings at 2m spacing between trees and 3m spacing between rows.
- The outside two rows consist of poplars.
- Row three consists of a mix of green ash and silver maple.
- Row four consists of white spruce.
- Row five consists of red oak.
- The first row on the windward side is set back 35m from the laneway.

Designing a living snow fence that will effectively trap snow*



*Distances and figures are approximate, there are variations to this rule depending on wind speeds, the topography and the density of the trees.

Plan ahead and consider the height of the trees at maturity.
As a general rule of thumb, the snow will be deposited on the leeward side of the row of trees for a distance of **3 times** the height of the trees.