



Before you scout the windbreak – pre site visit checklist

This checklist is not all-inclusive, but gives some basic guidance for things to go over prior to the site visit.

- This windbreak is actually a windbreak.
 - A windbreak as a system of multiple rows of trees and shrubs primarily designed and engineered to modify the flow of wind.
 - Most Likely a Windbreak:
 - L-shaped or U-shaped tree planting surrounding a rural residence or farmyard consisting of multiple rows of trees and shrubs with each row usually being the same species within the row, but most rows being different from one another.
 - Long, linear tree plantings across a farm field, usually from field edge to field edge. May be a system of single rows or one multiple-row planting.
 - Living snow fence parallel to a roadway.
 - Most Likely NOT a Windbreak:
 - Block-style wildlife plantings
 - Native forest
 - Shade trees (yard trees)
 - Privacy screens or lot line markers
 - Orchards
 - Timber plantations or tree farms
- The windbreak site meets land eligibility requirements.
 - Eligible land includes rural lands with existing tree cover, or suitable for growing trees, that is owned or leased long-term by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe or other private legal entity.
 - Not eligible: public land including: state, county, city, parks or park boards, or any other public land.
- Landowner goals for the windbreak are consistent with the overall goals for the program.
 - The goal of this program is to provide assistance to private forest landowners to encourage and enable active, long-term forest management to meet their individual goals and for the benefit of the forest resource.

*Please consult with NDFS if any of the above criteria are in question prior to completing the site visit.

- Review aerial imagery of the windbreak. The ND Water Commission hosts a free map service that is user-friendly and available online at <https://mapservice.dwr.nd.gov>. Imagery is available from 2003-present.
- Use Web Soil Survey to review soil map report.
 - NDFS recommends the following map settings:
 - AOI -> Soil Data Explorer -> Soil Reports -> Land Classifications -> Conservation Tree and Shrub Suitability Groups (CTSGs) (expand)
 - >>> Select “Include minor soils” -> View Soil Report
 - Soil report and aerial imagery can be very helpful in determining the causes of windbreak decline and are important tools for making management recommendations.