

# Grass Windbreak Buffer

A grass windbreak buffer can protect your windbreak and your equipment from accidental damage *and* add value to your operation.



*Get more protection and production with a grass windbreak buffer .*

## Benefits of planting a grass windbreak buffer include...(but are not limited to)

- ◆ **Increased implement clearance.** Keep trees away from spreader and sprayer booms and keep tillage equipment away from trees.
- ◆ **Soil health and erosion control.** Grasses have deep root structures.
- ◆ **Livestock feed production.** A grass windbreak buffer on a quarter line provides two acres of grazable or hayable forage.
- ◆ **Herbicide drift protection.** Prevent accidental over spray from damaging trees.
- ◆ **Pollinator habitat.** Increase interactions between crops and beneficial insects.

## How wide should the grass windbreak buffer be?

30 feet wide is the *minimum*. If grass will be hayed, consider the width of the mower. For living snow fences or windbreaks adjacent to roadways, consider filling the entire strip between the trees and the road ditch.

## Are all grasses the same?

No. Grasses and other vegetation can compete with new tree plantings and limit natural regeneration. Aggressive cool season grasses, such as turf grass, often have sod forming tendencies and compete against establishing tree roots.

## What grass would be an appropriate choice?

A blend of native cool and warm season grasses will work on most sites.

Species to Consider	Species to Avoid
Western Wheatgrass	Smooth Brome
Slender Wheatgrass	Kentucky Bluegrass
Big Bluestem	Creeping Fescue
Little Bluestem	
Green Needlegrass	
Indiangrass	
Sideoats Grama	
Blue Grama	
Canada Wildrye	
Switchgrass	

## Tips and Tricks...

For more tips on incorporating field windbreaks into your agricultural operation, please contact the North Dakota Forest Service. We are here to help!



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