



## Windbreak Site Visit Guide

The purpose of the windbreak site visit is to gather information that will be used to make management recommendations that help the landowner meet their windbreak goals.

### 1. Goals

What are the landowner's goals for the windbreak?  
Are their goals realistic?

### 2. Function

What was the original purpose of the windbreak?  
Is the windbreak still needed for this purpose?  
How well is the windbreak performing?

### 3. Appearance

Do the trees and shrubs appear healthy?  
Is the condition variable from row to row?  
Are the dead trees and/or shrubs distributed throughout or localized to one spot in the windbreak?

### 4. Species

What species are present and what is their condition?

### 5. Age

When was the windbreak planted?  
Is there natural regeneration occurring?  
What species are regenerating?

### 6. Cultural Practices

Is there evidence that cattle or other livestock have been in the windbreak?  
Are the trees appropriately spaced?  
Has the weed barrier fabric been managed properly?  
Is the windbreak adjacent to a field in annual crop production?

### 7. Damaging Events

Has the windbreak been subject to an extreme event such as a flood, fire or high wind event?

### 8. Site Limitations

What are the characteristics of the site that might limit windbreak potential?

### 9. Landowner

What experience does the landowner have with windbreak renovation?  
What resources do they have available (friends, family, equipment, time?)  
Are they open to suggestions or do they have a renovation plan firmly in mind?  
If the landowner has a renovation plan in mind, what additional considerations should they be aware of?  
Are there alternatives they should consider?

Sketch the windbreak, noting:

- Rows and spacing
- Species and condition
- Locations of snow drifts
- Site limitations (soil change, slope, standing water)
- Buildings, roads, other structures.
- Locations of planned future installations.
- Ownership and land use on adjacent property
- Locations of overhead power lines, underground utilities, easements, setbacks