



Windbreak Renovation Practices

Just like there's no one "correct way" to renovate your home, there is no one way to renovate a windbreak – practices can be mixed and matched depending on many factors. Some of the practices, and some pros and cons of each, are listed below.

Natural Regeneration



- Pros
Free
Mimics natural process
- Cons
Does not add species diversity
May require thinning

Sod Release



- Pros
Good for any age windbreak
DIY
- Cons
May require follow-up treatments
May get a flush of weeds

Interplanting/Gap Planting



- Pros
DIY
Maintains function
- Cons
Competition from mature trees
Labor intensive

Supplemental Rows



- Pros
Contractors readily available!
Maintains windbreak function
Adds age & species diversity
- Cons
Increases windbreak footprint
Competition with existing trees

Coppice/Pollard



- Pros
DIY
Fast results
- Cons
Does not add species diversity
Not all trees/shrubs are suitable

Thinning/pruning



- Pros
Good for fixing drifts
Reduces competition
- Cons
Can be ugly
Labor intensive

Partial Remove & Replace



- Pros
Maintains function
Adds diversity
- Cons
Prone to wind-throw
Risk damaging leave trees

Complete Remove & Replace



- Pros
Allows relocation
Fresh start
- Cons
Complete loss of function
Expensive