

Windbreak Assessments

Bottom Line: Periodic windbreak assessments can reveal threats to windbreak function before it's too late.

Trees live a long time, right?

- Native forests have natural gaps and openings and a random mixture of old trees and young seedlings. While the forest may be “old” there are lots of young trees within it.
- Windbreaks are often planted on land that did not grow trees originally, and in North Dakota our harsh northern climate adds to the stresses windbreaks must endure year-in and year-out. Our windbreaks have to work hard for decades—we can't simply “plant it and forget it.”

What periodic Windbreak Assessments will do.

- Most windbreaks reach their mature size within 20 years of planting and should be functioning in their intended purpose.
- The North Dakota Forest Service offers a free Windbreak Assessment any private landowner in North Dakota!
- A forester will meet with the landowner onsite or “virtually” via phone or video consultation. They will review the windbreak's condition and discuss the windbreak's effectiveness. The forester will then provide the landowner with their professional assessment and recommendations for how the windbreak can be maintained.
- DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE. Many landowners don't look closely at their windbreak until branches fall into the field or large gaps appear. This is like waiting to change your vehicle's motor oil until your engine seizes up! Any mature windbreak is a candidate for an assessment—even the ones



A Windbreak Assessment can identify small problems before the windbreak is compromised.

Request a Windbreak Assessment Today!

Keep in mind...

- Windbreak Assessments work best when the leaves are on the trees, so most assessments are conducted in the spring and summer—making for a busy field season. New requests are generally handled on a first-come first-served basis unless a forester is already in your area on other business.
- Winter is a great time to take notes on windbreak function. Keep track of where snow drifts land and where melt run-off accumulates.



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