



CP5A - Field Windbreaks

50

percent, or more,
reduction in wind speed

10

day increase of the
growing season

ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES

42% of the erosion damage occurring in Michigan annually is caused by wind erosion.

Windbreaks can extend the growing season by sheltering crops from frost conditions resulting in increased crop development and earlier crop maturity.

Only 1 - 5% of the land base is needed to protect crops from damaging winds.

Just the basics

Field windbreaks are narrow rows of trees and shrubs that are strategically placed between fields to reduce the effects of damaging wind. Field wind breaks can be implemented to meet multiple objectives including:

- Reduce soil erosion from wind
- Protect plants from wind related damage
- Manage snow deposition
- Provide wildlife corridors and nesting sites
- Provide noise and visual screens
- Increase carbon storage in biomass and soils

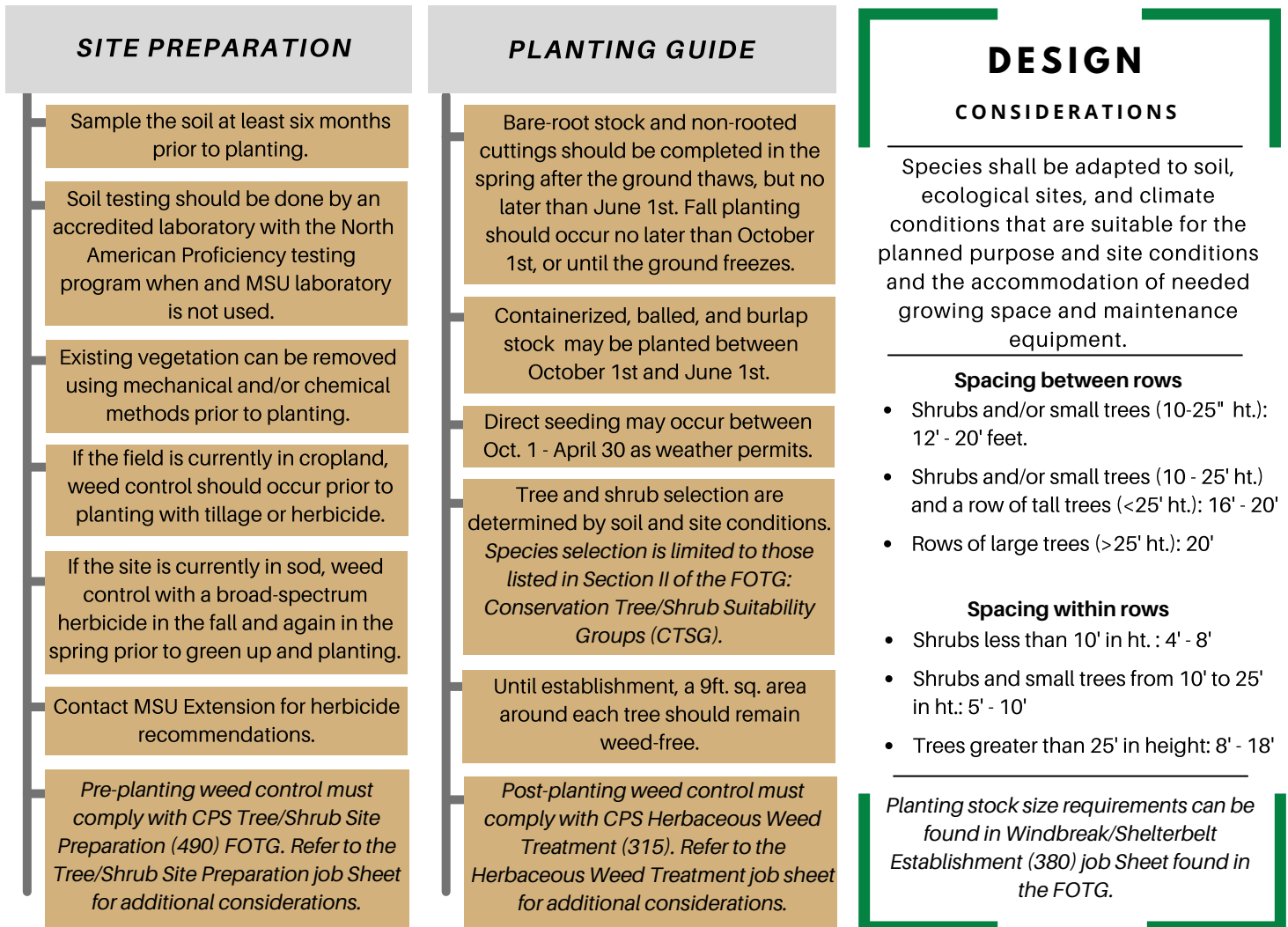
CREP policy guidelines

- *Field Windbreaks must be installed according to the Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).*
- *Maximum width and spacing will be the minimum needed to achieve 40% density, the level needed to effectively reduce wind erosion.*
- *Must be placed perpendicular to the troublesome wind.*
- *Must contain a minimum of one row of trees and two rows of shrubs, and a maximum of two rows of trees and three rows of shrubs.*

For more information:

Contact:

What is the life cycle of a field windbreak?



A 4% increase in field windbreak habitat increases pheasant counts by 22% in prime habitat locations.

LANDOWNER

OBLIGATION

- Develop a Conservation Plan with USDA approved conservationist.
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation management plan.
- Replacement costs of dead trees and shrubs when less than 80% of the plants are living.
- Maintenance of field windbreaks according to the conservation management plan.
- Complete practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract
- Will maintain practice without additional cost-share payments

CONTRACT

TASKS

- Complete a soil test to determine which trees and shrubs are best suited to site conditions.
- Complete the Implementation Requirements windbreak/shelterbelt sheet with client to outline installation requirements and obtain necessary permits.
- Documentation of operation and maintenance for at least the first three years.
- Develop written plans, including sketches and drawings to adequately describe the practice installment.
- Order needed equipment, such as disk, for site preparation.