

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT06 – Renovation of a windbreak, shelter belt or hedgerow for wildlife habitat



Enhancement Description

This enhancement is for the renovation of existing sites that are declining in vigor, need additional woody plants (trees or shrubs) or otherwise no longer provide wildlife habitat benefits. Existing rows of woody plants may be thinned, removed or replaced with new plantings. Existing woody plants may be pruned, either branches or roots or both, to improve windbreak function, health and vigor.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland and pastureland

Benefits

Renovation restores the function of existing windbreaks, shelterbelts or hedgerows to provide wildlife habitat benefits as well as other benefits such as reduced wind erosion, pesticide drift, mitigation of odor and noise and controlled snow deposition. Species composition may be upgraded by adding trees or shrubs that produce wildlife food and shelter as well as wood products and visual quality, such as spring blossoms or fall colors. Woody species threatened by pests such as emerald ash borer can be replaced with more resilient species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.

Criteria

1. Identification of wildlife species to be benefited by the renovation
2. Develop a plan for new trees and/or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions
3. Removal of dead or dying trees that do not provide the desired habitat unless habitat for cavity nesting wildlife is desired
4. Removal of other trees or invasives that do not provide the desired habitat
5. Replacement of removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat while serving the required windbreak or shelter belt function
6. Pruning or thinning of less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide wildlife habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions

Documentation Requirements

1. Brief written description of the tasks completed with dates and any receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.
2. Delineations on a map or aerial photo of renovated windbreak

Michigan Supplement

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The following tree and shrub species are suitable for wildlife habitat in windbreaks or Shelterbelts:

Tree Species	
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	balsam fir
<i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i>	striped maple
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	silver maple
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	sugar maple
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	mountain maple
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	serviceberry
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny serviceberry
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	pawpaw
<i>Carya</i> spp.	hickory species (native)
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	northern hackberry
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	alternateleaf dogwood
<i>Cornus florida</i>	flowering dogwood
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	hawthorn species (native)
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	honeylocust
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	butternut
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	black walnut
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	eastern redcedar
<i>Larix laricina</i>	tamarack
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tuliptree
<i>Malus</i> spp.	crabapple species (native)
<i>Morus rubra</i>	red mulberry
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	blackgum
<i>Picea glauca</i>	white spruce
<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	jack pine
<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	red pine
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	eastern white pine
<i>Prunus</i> spp.	cherry and plum species (native)
<i>Quercus</i> spp.	oak species (native)
<i>Sorbus americana</i>	mountain-ash
<i>Sorbus decora</i>	northern mountain ash
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	northern white-cedar
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	eastern hemlock
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	nannyberry

Shrub Species	
<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	roundleaf serviceberry
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	silky dogwood
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	roughleaf dogwood
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	gray dogwood
<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	roundleaf dogwood
<i>Cornus sericea</i> ssp. <i>sericea</i>	red-osier dogwood
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American hazelnut
<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	beaked hazelnut
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	black hawthorn
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	hawthorn species (native)
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American witchhazel
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry
<i>Photinia melanocarpa</i>	black chokeberry
<i>Photinia pyrifolia</i>	red chokeberry
<i>Prunus pumila</i>	sand cherry
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>canadensis</i>	American black elderberry
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i>	red elderberry
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	mapleleaf viburnum
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> var. <i>americanum</i>	American cranberrybush
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	blackhaw
<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>	downy arrowwood
<i>Viburnum recognitum</i>	southern arrowwood

For other species, or for assistance in determining species to plant to provide habitat for the target wildlife species, consult with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Biologist or State Forester.

Select species from the Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Groups (CTSG) tool located in the eFOTG, Section II, Folder K.

This enhancement will benefit all edge species of wildlife and will serve as stop-over habitat to many migratory species.

This enhancement will not benefit grassland dependent wildlife species.

All enhancement activities must meet the NRCS Michigan conservation practice standard Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650) and all other applicable conservation practice standards, in the eFOTG, Section IV.