



# CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM WINDBREAK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

02/07

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Minnesota

## WINDBREAK MANAGEMENT

Mid-contract management activities in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are required to enhance plant diversity and wildlife benefits while soil and water resources are protected throughout the contract period.



## REQUIREMENTS

Required CRP mid-contract management activities for windbreaks are eligible for cost share with the following practices: CP5A, CP16A, and CP17. The planned management activities are part of the CRP contract; refer to your conservation plan for practice schedules regarding these activities.

## MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Windbreak mid-contract management activities that enhance wildlife habitat and plant diversity involve controlling sod-forming grasses and invasive species. Plant problems such as these degrade wildlife habitat by crowding out native and beneficial plants that provide food, nesting materials and cover.

Sod-forming grasses and invasive species are particularly problematic since they can appear at any time during the contract period, seem to invade suddenly and

populate explosively. To catch invasions early while infested areas are still small and treatable, inventory the herbaceous plants in the windbreak to determine if any harmful plants have invaded. If found, eradicate the harmful population immediately and replant the area with beneficial plants.

Scheduled windbreak management activities need to follow the specifications of one or more of the following practices in the MN NRCS Field Office Tech Guide Practice Standards:

- Conservation Cover, Code 327
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation, Code 650
- Pest Management, Code 595
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Establishment, Code 645
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Establishment, Code 644

## FREQUENCY

Management activities must be completed before the end of year 6 in a 10-year contract and before the end of year 9 in a 15 year contract. Schedule a plant inventory between the years 4-6 in a 10-year contract and years 4-9 in a 15-year contract. If the beneficial plant community is sufficiently established, sod-forming grasses and invasive species will not be able to establish a foothold in the later years of the contract period.

## COST SHARE

The cost share rate for mid-contract management activities is 50% of eligible costs up to \$50 per acre per year, **not to exceed**

- \$100/ac for 10-yr contracts
- \$125/ac for 10+yr contracts

