

# Laramie County Conservation District

## Windbreak Tree Care Short and Long-Term

- 1. Watering** - 5 gallons per tree, per week, May, June, July, August, and September for seedling trees. Larger, established trees receive ten gallons per inch of diameter, measured at breast height, per week, May, June, July, August, and September. All trees require watering during the winter months. When the peak day time temperature is above 40 degrees, with mild winds, water your trees. Consider each time you water, as one watering. Avoid spreading out the watering over multiple days. This will result in improper watering of the complete root system of the tree.
- 2. Drip irrigation** - inspect for clogged or missing emitters, repair any leaks or damaged emitters, and clean any filter/screens. As the trees mature move the drip pipe away from the trees and add more emitters as needed for more effective timely watering.
- 3. Tree replacement** - ensure that there are no gaps in the windbreak to achieve adequate wind/snow control.
- 4. Inspect your trees** - for signs of insect or disease management needs.
- 5. Maintenance of your trees** – keep competing weeds and grasses pulled from around the base of your trees. This is especially important, as weeds will compete for water that the tree needs to establish and grow.
- 6. Fabric inspection** – continually look for air pockets between the fabric and the ground which will cook the tree leading to tree loss. As the trees mature, cut back the fabric mulch from the trunk of the trees to prevent the fabric from girdling the trees causing death.
- 7. Remove blow dirt from the top of the fabric** - to prevent weeds from growing on and down through the fabric, creating maintenance issues.
- 8. Mow** - between your tree rows to reduce weeds competing with the trees for moisture and nutrients. Mowing also helps with rodent control, as predators can see those annoying rodents that eat your trees.
- 9. Anti-desiccants and tree guards** - help combat wind burn, water loss, winter desiccation, and tree guards control browsing by unwanted annoying rodents which leads to tree loss.
- 10. Livestock exclusion fences** - eliminate the chance of livestock entering the windbreak and causing damage such as soil and root compaction and browsing on the trees.
- 11. Hardening your trees for winter** - reduce your watering needs to twice a month in September or when the leaves start to turn colors. October, start watering once a month, on days that are above 40 degrees with mild wind. This is dependent on an early/late fall.

Contact the Laramie County Conservation District @ 307-772-2600/info@lccdnet.org with questions regarding your windbreak and windbreak management practices.