

NRCS
Southeast Resource Area
Rosebud County Conservation District

OPERATOR: _____

PROJECT: _____

A properly maintained tree planting is an asset at your operation. This checklist is provided to you as *recommendations* for maintaining and protecting your tree planting.

BEFORE PLANTING CARE

Ground Preparation:

- * The area that is to be planted to trees should be fallowed. Areas that are currently cropland should be tilled for **1** year. Areas that are sod should be broke and fallowed for **2** years.

Transporting:

- Immediately transport seedlings to storage or planting site after purchase. Keep roots moist, do not let the sun or wind dry out roots during transport to storage, or planting site.

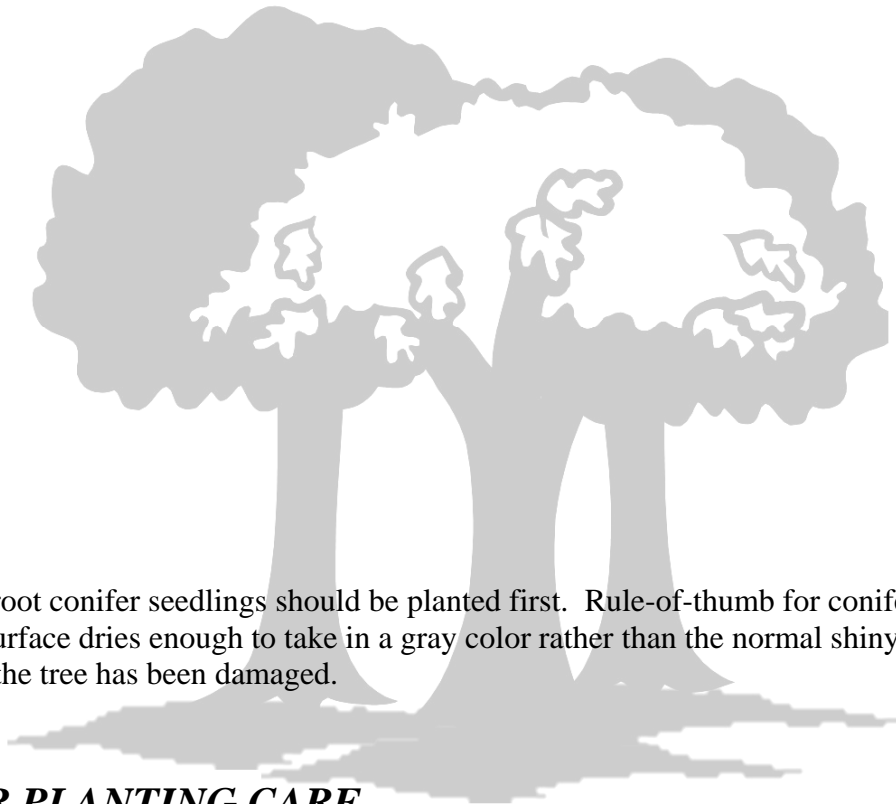
Storage until planting:

- Cool barns or sheds are sufficient for 3 to 4 days' storage.
- Lightly water the bundles; do not store roots submerged in water. Lay tarps or plastic over bundles to reduce drying.

Planting

- Avoid planting trees when air temperatures are hot or winds are excessive.
- Do not let seedlings dry out during the planting process. Carry only the number of trees that can be planted in a 30 – 40 minute time period on the tree planter. Place bundles in the shade and continue to keep moist.

- Container seedlings should be watered well the day before planting and then planted directly from the styrofoam block.
- Correct and improper planting depths. Drawings 1 through 11 illustrate various ways



- Bare-root conifer seedlings should be planted first. Rule-of-thumb for conifers, if the root surface dries enough to take in a gray color rather than the normal shiny wet look; the tree has been damaged.

AFTER PLANTING CARE

Irrigation:

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- Water from questionable sources should be tested to ensure that it is high enough quality to be used for irrigating trees and shrubs.
- Maintain irrigation system to ensure system is working properly. Check filters and emitters often.
- Irrigate enough to penetrate through out the root zone. This will promote deeper root growth. Each irrigation for the first year should be 2 to 5 gallons per tree. For the second and third, 5 to 10 gallons per tree.
- A typical irrigation schedule for Southeast Montana is 2 irrigations in both April and May, 3 irrigations in June, 4 irrigation's in July and finish with 2 in early August.
- Cease irrigation in late August to help trees harder off to cold weather.
- Evergreens should be watered after the second hard frost of the year.

WEED CONTROL

Mechanical:

- Control weeds as needed for tree establishment and longevity.
- Cultivate deep enough to control weeds but do *not* penetrate root zone and cause root damage.
- When installing Fabric Mesh (Weed Barriers), anchor edges and the area where the tree seedlings penetrate through the mesh. Maintain the method of anchoring throughout the life of the Fabric Mesh.

Chemicals:

- Nearly all chemicals used for weed control can kill or injure shrubs or trees. *Follow label directions exactly.*

PROTECTION

- Examine trees periodically in late fall, winter, and early spring for signs of insects, animal or disease damage. If you find damage that you are unfamiliar with, contact your local NRCS, Conservation District, or County Extension Agent.
- Control livestock, wildlife, and poultry damage by fencing or other methods. (*Tubex, repellants, etc...*)
- Provide winter protection for young conifers to reduce winter burn to needles.

TREE PLANTING BENEFITS AND ECONOMICS

Farmstead windbreaks:

- Reduce winter fuel consumption by 10 to 35 percent.
- Noise buffer
- Protect home gardens
- Provide cover for wildlife
- Increase property values

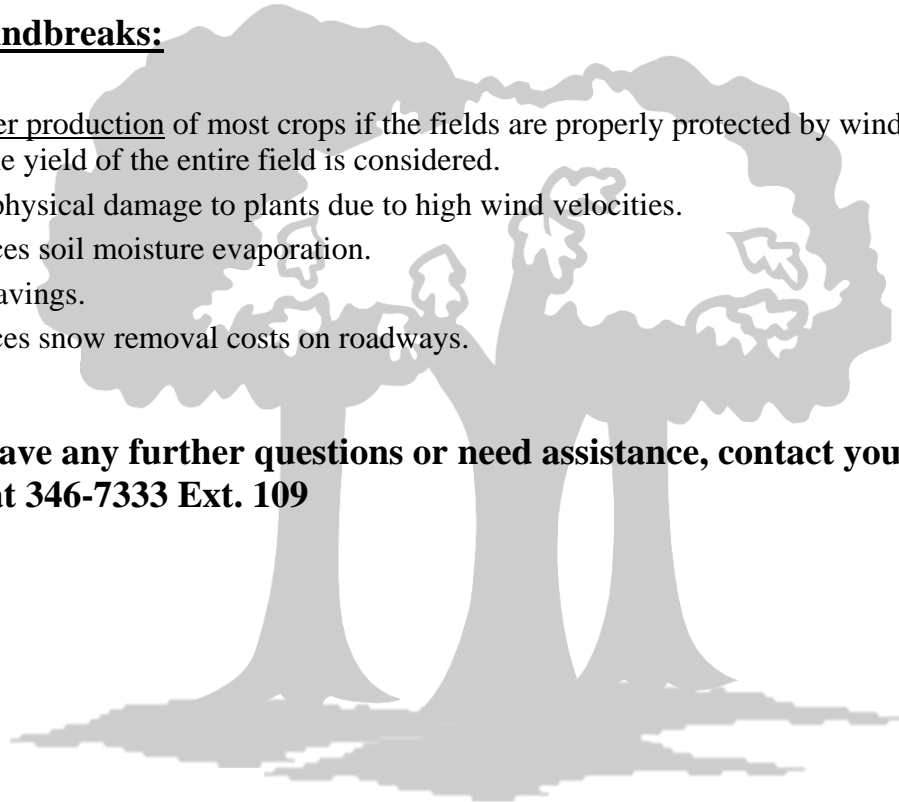
Feedlot windbreaks:

- \$5.00 to \$10.00 less feeding cost per animal for the winter.
- Increase animal gains when feeding area is protected from the wind.
- Reduces calf losses
- A properly designed windbreak will make winter feeding operations easier.

Field windbreaks:

- Greater production of most crops if the fields are properly protected by windbreaks and the yield of the entire field is considered.
- Less physical damage to plants due to high wind velocities.
- Reduces soil moisture evaporation.
- Soil savings.
- Reduces snow removal costs on roadways.

If you have any further questions or need assistance, contact your local NRCS at 346-7333 Ext. 109



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www.rosebudcd.org