

**WINDBREAK ESTABLISHMENT
(CODE 380)**

DESCRIPTION

A practice which establishes and maintains single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs in a linear configuration to protect water and soil resources on production agriculture land.

PURPOSE

This practice is to be used to address a natural resource concern or improved conservation benefit identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

CONDITION

This practice may be applied on land in production agriculture where air or water quality is impaired or where there is a high potential of water quality impairment.

POLICIES

1. Vegetative cover shall be selected to accomplish the intended purpose of the practice, conditions of the site, and the objectives of the land user. Herbaceous and/or woody species may be appropriate. Refer to Tree/Shrub site preparation Standard 490 for preparing site conditions for plant establishment. In situations where hardwood species are appropriate, tree shelters may be cost-shared at a maximum rate of 400 shelters per acre.
2. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380) shall be followed when applying this practice.
3. Site preparation and planting to establish vegetative cover shall be done at a time and in a manner to assure the survival and growth of the selected species. It is eligible for cost-share provided it is an area of light infestation, i.e., less than 20% of the site is covered by *Multiflora Rose* or other invasive woody species. The maximum cost-share available for site preparation is \$600 per acre.
4. Only viable, high-quality seed and planting stock shall be used. The method of planting shall include hand or machine planting techniques suited to achieving proper depths and placement for the selected plant species. Supplemental moisture shall be applied if and when necessary to ensure early survival and establishment of selected species. Also, plant and animal pest species shall be controlled as necessary to achieve and maintain the intended purpose of the vegetative cover. Further, noxious weeds shall be controlled as required by state law.
5. Occasional removal of trees is permitted, provided that the intended purpose is not compromised by the loss of vegetation. In addition, such harvesting must occur as part of an approved forestry management plan.

6. Cost-sharing *is not authorized* for the following:
 - a. Plantings intended for forage production. (Refer to the conservation practice standard Pasture and Hayland Planting, Code 512).
 - b. Plantings which will be established on critically eroding areas which usually cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment and management. (For site stabilization on these areas, refer to the conservation practice standard Critical Area Planting, Code 342).
 - c. Plantings that do not follow local and state ordinances in regard to setbacks and property lines.
 - d. Plantings that are to be used as aesthetic borders **only** between properties.

7. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of fifteen (15) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor, and materials needed to meet this requirement. At a minimum, these measures shall be carried out for the life of the practice:
 - a. Periodically inspect the windbreak, and repair or restore as needed to maintain the intended purpose from adverse impacts such as excessive vehicular and pedestrian traffic, pest infestations and pesticide use on adjacent lands, livestock damage, and fire.
 - b. Replace dead trees and shrubs as needed, and control undesirable vegetative competition.
 - c. As applicable, control of concentrated flow erosion or mass soil movement shall be continued in the up-gradient area to maintain buffer function.

8. Applicants must be in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. Application will not be approved unless a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form is submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment will not exceed 100% of the total eligible costs, not to exceed \$150,000 per project from all funding sources.

USDA shares will be considered co-cost shares and entered accordingly on the Water Quality Project form (application) and Claim for Payment. Any USDA co-cost share entered on the Claim for Payment that was not entered on the Water Quality Project form, may be determined to be an overrun and require an additional funding justification for the project.

ATTACHMENTS

Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of previous project(s) may be ineligible for MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.

The following items are needed:

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website (<https://dat.maryland.gov>) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. Aerial photograph indicating the property lines and existing and proposed BMPs.
4. Plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the proposed BMP.
5. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted along with the Application (SECTION III, #30).