

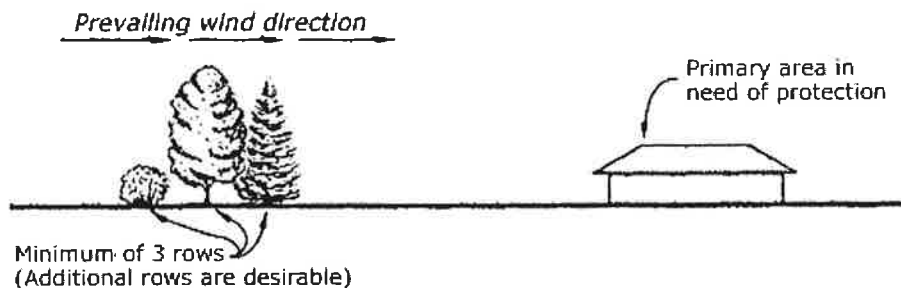
## SHELTERBELT

A good farmstead shelterbelt will:

- Moderate the effects of hot, dry summer winds
- Reduce the effects of cold winter winds
- Reduce the amount of noise and dust from roadways
- Prevent snow from drifting around buildings, roads, and sidewalks
- Save fuel and labor from less snow plowing
- Beautify the farmstead
- Wildlife habitat for songbirds and game birds

### The Basic Layout

- For the greatest protection against prevailing winds, plant your shelterbelt on the North and West sides of your farmstead.
- The closest tree row from your house and other buildings should be no closer than 100'. This distance helps prevent snow from piling up around your house, driveway, and sidewalks. It also allows room for air circulation during hot summer months.
- Extend the windbreak at least 50' past your house and barn to help prevent snow from drifting around the ends.
- Do NOT plant windbreaks on all four sides of your building site. Otherwise, a "dead air pocket" could form slowing down air circulation making those hot summer days unbearable. A few small shrubs and fruit trees would be fine.
- 8 – 10 rows of shrubs and trees work best, but you can get by with three to four rows.
  - The furthest row(s) of the windbreak should be a small dense shrub, such as American Cranberry, Wild Plum, or Lilac.
  - The next row(s) should be a row of tall shrubs or a medium height tree, such as Chokecherry, Green Ash, or Sugar Maple.
  - The following row(s) should be a row of tall conifer (evergreen) tree, such as Norway Pine, or White Pine.
  - The final row(s) should be a medium conifer (evergreen) tree, such as Norway Spruce, or White Spruce.



Contact the Root River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office for shelterbelt design and cost-share assistance. The SWCD currently has cost-share funding available for shelterbelts and other conservation practices. Each spring the SWCD has many different varieties of shrubs, hardwoods, and evergreens available for conservation practices. Call (507) 724-5261 extension #3 to check on availability.

As the old adage says, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the next best time is today!" It will take a few years to realize all of the benefits of a windbreak, but it is definitely a good investment.