

PREPARATION

Ground Preparation is critical in proper tree planting and laying weed barrier. When the land is not properly prepared, it is very difficult and sometimes impossible for the NRD crew to complete the task.

A Properly Prepared Site Means:

- The worked site is tilled at least 8" – 10" deep, preferably the fall before planting. This is to eliminate air pockets around roots and allow the planter to reach proper depth.
- Example: Site is properly prepared when a garden with tomatoes or carrots could be planted.

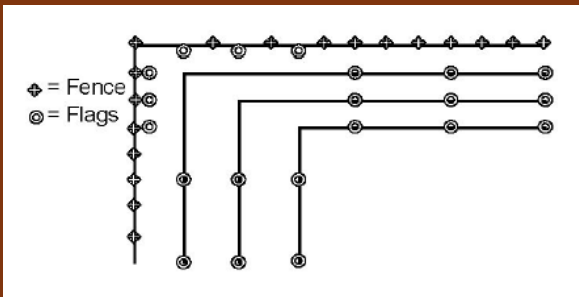
Landowners Responsibility:

The NRD will contact "Diggers Hotline". It is the landowner's job to place the white marking flags to mark the rows according to the NRCS planting plan. Flags can be picked up at CPNRD.

Flagging:

- Place flags at both ends, marking each row.
- Place flags in the middle of each row, minimum every 250 ft.

See example of L-Shape flagging below:



TREE SURVIVAL

Please do your part to prepare the ground for planting!

Tree survival depends on how well the ground is prepared before the seedlings are planted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Your CPNRD Contact:

Kelly Cole
(308) 395-7134 | cole@cpnrd.org

Tom Backer
(308) 385-6284 | backer@cpnrd.org

Your local USDA-NRCS (Ext. 3)

Central City (308) 946-3035
Grand Island (308) 395-8586
Kearney (308) 237-3118
Lexington (308) 324-6314
Osceola (402) 747-2111

Diggers Hotline:

(800) 331-5666 | www.ne-diggers.com

CPNRD

CENTRAL PLATTE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

(308) 385-6282

www.cpnrd.org



YouTube

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GROUND PREPARATION

Tree Planting

&

Weed Barrier

Installation

CPNRD

CENTRAL PLATTE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Nebraska's NRDs:

*Protecting Lives
Protecting Property
Protecting the Future*

PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Distances:

- 8-ft minimum off fence row for machine plant.
- 8-ft minimum off fence row for weed barrier installation.
- Within row distance between trees – 4, 5, or 6-ft or multiples thereof according to NRCS tech guides.
- Allow 8-ft off fence lines of first row for equipment access.



Cropland Sites:

The area to be planted must be disked thoroughly or tilled prior to planting. (Land may not need tillage in soybean residue.) Sufficient crop residue may be left undisturbed between tree rows to control erosion; however, rows themselves must be worked as stated above.

Without Weed Barrier: A minimum of 6' width without weed barrier must be worked.

With Weed Barrier: The tree rows must have an area 11' in width properly prepared with a minimum of 12'– 20' between rows, depending on tree species.

Sod Sites:

The entire area to be planted may be disked thoroughly or tilled prior to planting but work only the area of the tree rows when erosion control is necessary. This is known as strip tilling.

Without Weed Barrier: The minimum tree row width to be worked is 6 feet. The worked strip must be tilled a minimum of 8-10 inches in depth.

With Weed Barrier: A minimum of 11-foot width must be worked.

Chemical Seedbed Prep:

Sites to be strip tilled should have the sod killed by nonselective herbicide 3 days prior to being worked to help ensure total kill is achieved.

Hand plant sites:

A minimum of 6' diameter area must be worked for each tree planted in sod. Trees may be planted directly into crop residue.



EXAMPLES OF POOR PREPARATION



Too Tough

This photo shows ground that was so lightly disked that the NRD crew was unable to get a shovel in the ground because the grass was firmly rooted.

Not Wide Enough

The ground worked in this photo shows the width at only 8 feet and the depth of the tilled soil at only 1 inch.



11' Please

As you can see in this photo, the ground was not tilled wide enough, making it impossible for the rear disks to cover the fabric.