

FIGHTING WEEDS

Weed barrier fabric mulch helps conservation trees excel in both survival and growth rates.

ABOUT THE FABRIC

- Durable polypropylene geotextile woven fabric. Texture is similar to burlap.
- Water-permeable
- Controls weeds
- Conserves soil moisture
- Carries a 5-year guarantee against ultraviolet deterioration.



HOW IT WORKS

It eliminates vegetative competition with newly planted trees and shrubs by acting as mulch.

Soil moisture is conserved by reduction of evaporation. Water is able to penetrate the fabric, but sunlight cannot, so vegetation will not grow through it.

How to Order

Orders are taken by the Central Platte NRD or by your local USDA-NRCS by calling or visiting either office.

Central Platte NRD

(308) 385-6282 Web: cpnrd.org

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Central City: (308) 946-3035 Ext. 3

Grand Island: (308) 395-8586 Ext. 3

Kearney: (308) 237-3118 Ext. 3

Lexington: (308) 324-6314 Ext. 3

Osceola: (402) 747-2461 Ext. 3

Follow Central Platte NRD:



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Fabric Weed Barrier

Long-lasting weed control and moisture retention.



Since 1991, over 633 miles of weed barrier have been installed to protect trees and conserve moisture throughout the Central Platte NRD.



(308) 385-6282 | www.cpnrd.org

WEED BARRIER PROGRAM

These guidelines outline the responsibilities of landowners and the Central Platte NRD.

Landowner Responsibilities

- Prepare the ground properly before the NRD crew arrives.
- Weed barrier is available only for tree planting projects.
- May be installed before hand-planting your own trees (same cost applies).
- Not available for rows that include cottonwood or walnut trees.

NRD Contractor Responsibilities

- Installs weed barrier only on seedling plantings planted by the NRD crew.
- Installation available during spring only.
- Will not install on sites with cross slopes 5% or greater.

Your CPNRD Contacts

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

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

SITE PREPARATION

Proper site preparation is key to seedling survival, growth and successful fabric application. Poor prep can make installation impossible.



Soil must be plowed or dug to a minimum of 12" depth, then disked or tilled to remove clods and sod.

Where desirable cover (like native grass) exists, cultivate a **12'-wide strip at each tree row location**. Maintain a **10' minimum between rows**.

Do not disturb the native grass between rows.

COST

Fabric \$0.50/linear foot + tax
6-foot wide, 50-feet minimum

Fabric Squares \$1.75/square
4-foot x 4-foot

Staples \$0.15 each, sold in bundles of 25
10-inch x 2-inch x 8-inch gauge

Payment for fabric/staples required when ordering.

Fabric & Installation: \$1.50/linear foot + tax

Minimum: 1,000 linear feet per job site Customers billed for actual footage after job completion. **50% payment of estimated cost required when placing order.**

COST-SHARE

50% cost-share is available for weed barrier, trees, and planting services through the Conservation Tree Cost- Share Program. Sign up at the Central Platte NRD office or at your local NRCS office.

MAINTENANCE

- Walk tree rows **2–3 times each growing season** to pull weeds near the trees.
- Keep fabric edges covered with soil to prevent wind lifting.
- Mow between rows if weeds grow tall enough to fall over the fabric and trees.
- Leave some vegetation between rows to reduce wind damage and provide wildlife habitat.
- Always mow in the fall to remove potential winter rodent habitat.
- Planting sorghum or native grass between rows helps suppress weeds and stabilize the soil.

GIRDLING

After a few years, check the trunks of your trees to ensure the fabric isn't too close. As trees grow and their trunks expand, they may become larger than the original opening in the fabric. When the fabric begins to restrict the trunk, it causes girdling.



To prevent strangulation, cut the fabric away from the trunks using a box cutter, pocketknife, or large pair of scissors.

Take caution not to cut the trunk or injure yourself, as the fabric is made of a strong material.