

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT06 - Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelter Belt or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat



Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelter Belt or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat

This enhancement is for the renovation of existing sites that are declining in vigor, need additional woody plants (trees or shrubs) or otherwise no longer provide wildlife habitat benefits. Existing rows of woody plants may be thinned, removed or replaced with new plantings. Existing woody plants may be pruned, either branches or roots or both, to improve windbreak function, health and vigor.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland and pasture land.

Benefits

Renovation restores the function of existing windbreaks, shelterbelts or hedgerows to provide wildlife habitat benefits as well as other benefits such as reduced wind erosion, pesticide drift, mitigation of odor and noise and controlled snow deposition. Species composition may be upgraded by adding trees or shrubs that produce wildlife food and shelter as well as wood products and visual quality, such as spring blossoms or fall colors. Woody species threatened by pests such as emerald ash borer can be replaced with more resilient species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.

Criteria

- Identification of wildlife species to be benefited by the renovation.
- Develop a plan for new trees and/or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions.
- Removal of dead or dying trees that do not provide the desired habitat unless habitat for cavity nesting wildlife is desired.
- Removal of other trees or invasives that do not provide the desired habitat.
- Replacement of removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat while serving the required windbreak or shelter belt function.
- Pruning or thinning of less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide wildlife habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions.

Documentation Requirements

- Brief written description of the tasks completed with dates and any receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.
- Delineations on a map or aerial photo of renovated windbreak

**TENNESSEE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THIS ENHANCEMENT
PLT06 – Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelterbelt, or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat**

This enhancement is only applicable in Tennessee to HEDGEROWS. Enhancement of hedgerows involving establishment of woody vegetation is limited to shrubs/small trees only.

Establishment is categorized as:

1. New planting to widen an existing hedgerow or tree-lined fencerow for wildlife.
2. Replacement planting of hedgerows or parts of hedgerows, to be removed due to disease, insects, wind or ice damage, etc.

All planted materials will be protected from grazing.

The minimum width of a hedgerow shall be 15 feet. The target width of a hedgerow for songbirds, northern bobwhite quail and small game is from 30 to 50 feet wide.

Shrub/Tree Planting – An equal mixture of 3 species from the list below (only one sumac species allowed). Consider mixtures that provide long bloom periods, high fruit potential, and/or rich fall colors. All species on the list are planted on an 8x8 foot spacing between 12/1 and 4/1. Many shade tolerant species do well in full sun and will produce more flowers with more light exposure.

LIST OF APPROVED SHRUBS / TREES ELIGIBLE FOR EXPANSION OF EXISTING HEDGEROWS

<u>Species</u>	<u>Bloom period</u>	<u>Shade tolerance</u>	<u>Site Condition Range **</u>
Plum, Chickasaw	March-May	Shade tolerant	Dry, well drained
Spicebush (L. benzoin)	April	Prefers shade	Moist, somewhat poorly drained
Plum, American (wild)	April-May	Shade tolerant	Moist, well drained
Chinkapin (C. pumila)	April-June	Partial shade	Dry, well drained
Indigobush (A. fruticosa)	April-June	Full sun	Moist, moderately well drained
Sumac, fragrant (R. aromatica)	April-June	Partial shade	Dry, well drained
Sumac, shining (R. capallinum)	June-July	Full sun	Dry, well drained
Sumac, staghorn (R. hirta)	June-July	Shade tolerant	Dry, well drained
Beautyberry (C. americana)	May-July	Partial shade	Moist, moderately well drained
Elderberry (S. canadensis)	May-July	Partial shade	Moist, somewhat poorly drained
Viburnum, mapleleaf	May-August	Shade tolerant	Moist, well drained to dry
Dogwood, silky	May-June	Full sun	Moist, somewhat poorly drained
Dogwood, flowering	May-June	Shade tolerant	Moist, moderately well drained
Crabapple, southern	April-June	Full sun	Moist, moderately well drained

** Moist = wetter than moderately well drained soil; good moisture holding capacity; generally not hydric.

Dry = Drier than a well drained soil, tending toward droughty.

Poorly drained = generally a hydric soil due to persistent high water table sometime in growing season.

Somewhat poorly drained = Wetness limited soil (2w or 3w) but usually not hydric.

