

## 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 five-year guarantee against ultraviolet deterioration.



## HOW IT WORKS

It eliminates vegetative competition with newly planted trees/shrubs by acting as a 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.

Tree/shrub survival is increased dramatically because the fabric mulch provides effective control of weeds and grasses.

## 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

215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island 68803  
**(308) 385-6282 Web: [www.cpnrd.org](http://www.cpnrd.org)**

### NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Central City:** (308) 946-2251 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

## WEED BARRIER FABRIC MULCH

Provides long-lasting protection  
against weeds, and keeps moisture in  
the soil during dry conditions.



*575 miles of weed barrier has been  
installed in the CPNRD since 1991.*



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**(308) 385-6282 [www.cpnrd.org](http://www.cpnrd.org)**

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## WEED BARRIER PROGRAM

*These guidelines are established to avoid misunderstandings about the responsibilities of the landowner and the NRD.*

### Weed Barrier

- will be installed by the NRD contractor only on ground that has been properly prepared prior to crew's arrival.
- cannot be installed by contractor on cross slopes of 5% or greater.
- may be installed before the trees are hand planted by the landowner. Charge will be the same.
- cannot be installed with cottonwood or walnut trees in the rows.
- will be installed for customers who utilize the barrier for tree planting only.

### NRD Contractor

- Will only install weed barrier on seedling plantings that are planted by NRD crews.
- Contractor is only available during spring.

Your CPNRD Contacts:  
Kelly Cole- cole@cpnrd.org  
Tom Backer- backer@cpnrd.org  
(308) 385-6282

## SITE PREPARATION

Site preparation is important for seedling survival, seedling growth and proper fabric application. Inadequate site preparation can make the fabric installation impossible.

Soil must be plowed or chiseled to a minimum of 12-inch depth followed by discing or rototilling to remove any clods or sod.

When a desirable cover like native grass exists, cultivate a minimum 12-foot-wide strip at each tree row location. A minimum of 10 feet must be allowed between rows. Do not disturb the native grass between the tree rows.

## COST

- **Fabric:** 6' wide **.50 cents/lineal foot + tax**
- **Sheets of Fabric:** 4'x4' sheets **\$1.25 /sheet**
- **Staples:** 10"x 2"x 8" gauge **.15 cents each**

*Payment for fabric and staples is required when order is placed.*

- **Fabric & Installation:** A minimum of 1,000 lineal feet will be installed at a job site. Customers billed for actual feet after job is completed. **.80 cents per lineal ft + tax**

*Payment of 50% of estimated cost is required when order is placed.*

## \$\$ COST SHARE \$\$

**50% cost share** is available for weed barrier and trees through the CPNRD Conservation Tree Cost Share Program. You may sign up for cost share through the CPNRD office and at your local NRCS office.

## MAINTENANCE

After installation, some weeds and grasses will emerge adjacent to trees. It's important that you walk the tree rows two to three times during the growing season to pull weeds and grasses that are growing adjacent to your trees. Be sure to keep edges of the fabric covered with soil.



If weeds grow tall enough to compete for light and fall over fabric and trees, it'd be a good idea to mow between the tree rows or (at least) along fabric edges. In most other cases, leaving vegetation between rows will reduce damage from dehydrating wind and will provide excellent wildlife habitat.

Mowing should always occur in the fall to remove winter habitat for damaging rodents. Planting sorghum or native grass between rows will suppress weed growth.

## GIRDLING

After a few years, you should check the trunks of your trees to make sure the fabric isn't too close to them.

As the tree grows and the trunk expands, it will likely get larger than the hole that is initially cut in the fabric-- this is called girdling.



You may need to cut the fabric away from the trunks as the trees grow to prevent strangulation. This can be done easily by using a box cutter, pocket knife or a large pair of scissors.

**NOTE:** The fabric is made of a strong material, so you'll need to take caution not to cut the trunk of the trees or yourself when making the hole larger.