FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Central Platte
Natural Resources District**

Kelly Cole: 308-385-6282
Email: cole@cpnrd.org
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OR

Your NRCS Local Office (Ext. 3):
Lexington 308-324-6314
Kearney 308-237-3118
Grand Island 308-395-8586
Osceola 402-747-2461
Central City 308-946-2251

Tree Survival

Please do <u>your</u> part to prepare the ground for planting!

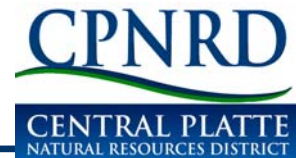*Tree survival depends on <u>how well</u> the ground is prepared before the seedlings are planted.*

**Protecting Lives • Protecting Property •
Protecting the Future**

CPNRD
CENTRAL PLATTE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

(308) 385-6282   cpnrd.org
215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE

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. This brochure will give you specific information on how to prepare your ground for tree planting and laying weed barrier.

Properly Prepared Site Means: The worked site must be tilled at least 8" to 10" deep, preferably the Fall before planting. The site is properly prepared when a garden with tomatoes or carrots could be planted.
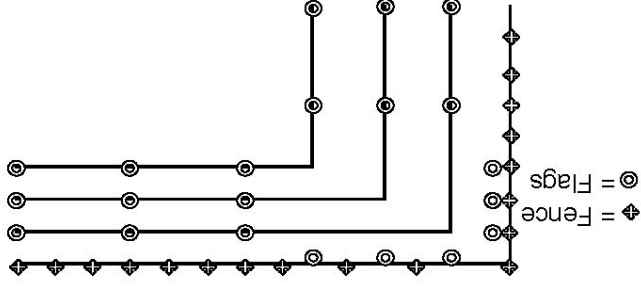
Landowners Responsibility

The NRD will contact "Diggers Hotline", but it is the landowners job to place the white marking flags to mark the rows according to the NRCS planting plan.

Diggers Hotline: 1-800-331-5666
Diggers Website: www.ne-diggers.com

Flagging

*Place flags at both ends, marking each row.

*Place flags in the middle of each row, minimum every 250 feet.

See example of L-Shape flagging below:

+ = Fence
◎ = Flags

Preparation Guidelines

Distances:
· 8' minimum off fence row for machine plant
· 8' minimum off fence row for weed barrier installation
· Within row distance between trees—4, 5, or 6 feet or multiples thereof according to NRCS tech guides.
Allow 8' off of 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 should remain to control erosion. Existing 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 6' width without weed barrier must be worked.

With Weed Barrier: The tree rows must have an area 10' in width properly prepared with a minimum of 12' to 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 for 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 10 feet 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 insure total kill is achieved.

Hand Plant Sites: A minimum 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:
The photograph above shows ground that was so lightly disked, 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 one inch.

10' 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.