

## 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/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 and shrub survival is increased dramatically with fabric mulch, providing 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: 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.



*591 miles of weed barrier have been installed in the CPNRD since 1991.*



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## WEED BARRIER PROGRAM

*These guidelines are established to distinguish responsibilities of both the landowner and CPNRD.*

### 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 5% or greater.
- may be installed before trees are hand-planted by landowner. Charge will be the same.
- can't 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 available only during spring.

## SITE PREPARATION

Site preparation is important for seedling survival, 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" depth followed by discing or rototilling to remove any clods or sod.

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

## COST

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

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

- **Fabric & Installation:** A minimum of 1,000 linear feet will be installed at a job site. Customers billed for actual feet after job is completed. **.80 cents/linear foot + 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 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 2-3 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 fall over the fabric and trees, mow between the tree rows and along the fabric edges. In most other cases, leaving vegetation between rows will reduce damage from dehydrating wind and provide excellent wildlife habitat.

You should always mow 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, check the trunks of your trees to make sure the fabric isn't too close to them.

As trees grow and the trunks expand, they'll likely get larger than the hole that 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 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.

### Your CPNRD Contacts

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