

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 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 adequately 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.



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



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WEED BARRIER PROGRAM

These guidelines are established to differentiate responsibilities of the landowner and Central Platte NRD.

Weed Barrier

- NRD contractor will install only on ground properly prepared prior to the crew's arrival.
- Installed for customers who utilize the weed barrier for tree planting only.
- May be installed before trees are hand-planted by landowner. Same cost.
- Can not be installed with cottonwood or walnut trees in the rows.

NRD Contractor

- Will only install weed barrier on seedling plantings that are planted by NRD crew.
- Contractor is available during spring only.
- Will not install on cross slopes 5% or greater.

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, 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 required when ordering.

Fabric & Installation: **.80 cents/linear foot + tax**
Minimum of 1,000 linear feet installed at a job site. Customers billed for actual feet after job is completed. *Payment for 50% of estimated cost required when placing order.*

COST-SHARE

75% cost-share is available for weed barrier, trees, and planting services through the Conservation Tree Cost-Share Program.

Sign up through the Central Platte NRD office or at your local NRCS office (*see back for contact information.*)

MAINTENANCE



After installation, some weeds and grasses will emerge adjacent to trees. Be sure to walk your tree rows 2 to 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 cases, leaving vegetation between the 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 grow larger than the hole that was initially cut in the fabric. When the trees begin to get 'choked' by the fabric, it is known as girdling.



Cut the fabric away from the trunks 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.