

# Benefits of Windbreaks

In Australia's extreme climatic conditions, and as a result of extensive clearing of our native vegetation, windbreaks are an essential part of property management. Windbreaks reduce wind speed, providing protection from hot and cold winds, and reducing dust and noise for homes, gardens, crops, pasture, orchards and livestock.

As well as providing wildlife habitat, windbreaks also reduce soil erosion, increase landscape beauty, provide privacy and screening, decrease dryland salinity and provide some protection from fires.



# Designing a Windbreak

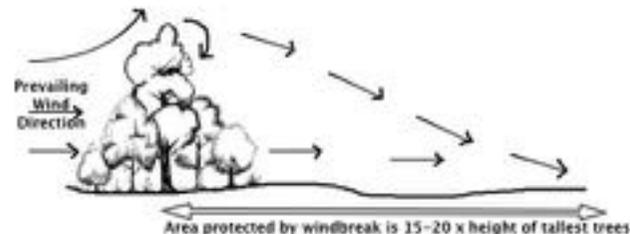
When considering where to plant your windbreak, it is important to take into account the topography of your land, where the prevailing wind direction is and which areas are in need of shelter.

An effective windbreak should be planted at right angles to the prevailing direction of cold winter and hot summer winds

Species choice is important and should be chosen from local, native species. Utilise a diverse range of species of various heights to create moderately dense foliage coverage from ground level to tree tops.

Windbreaks should consist of a minimum of 2 rows, preferably 5. Rows should be spaced 2-4m apart. The tallest trees should be in the centre or windward row and planted 3-6m apart. Smaller trees and larger shrubs should be planted on the outer rows, spaced 2-4m apart. The smallest shrubs should be planted on the outer edge 1-2m apart

The length of the windbreak should be at least 10 times the height of the tallest trees. The area protected by windbreak is generally 15-20 times the height of the tallest trees.



# Planting a windbreak

Ground preparations should be undertaken before planting. Weed control is an essential part of ground preparation and herbicide should be applied over the planting area at least two times before planting.

Preparation could also include ripping lines to break up compacted soil and make planting easier.



If there is a risk of damage from livestock, planting area should be fenced to protect plants.

To achieve best results, we recommend using slow-release fertiliser tablets and Watersave crystals at time of planting. Tree guards will also assist in protecting your plants from grazing wildlife, wind and frost, and also make weed control easier by reducing the risk of herbicide drift.

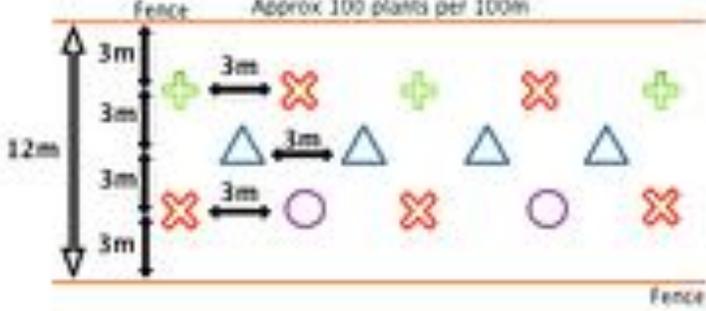
Maintain your windbreak by replacing plant losses as soon as possible. Pruning or thinning plants can improve dense growth. Continue weed control for at least a year after planting and ensure fencing and guards are well maintained.

# Examples of Windbreak Designs

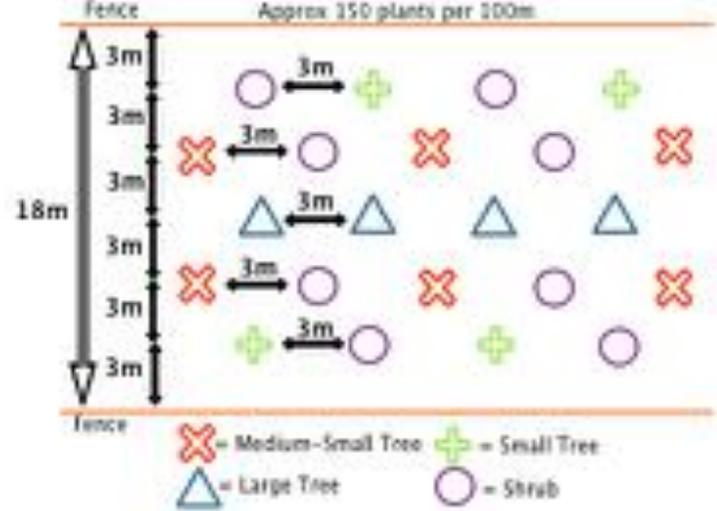
**Two Row Windbreak**  
Approx. 100 plants per 100m



**Three Row Windbreak**  
Approx. 100 plants per 100m



**Five Row Windbreak**  
Approx. 150 plants per 100m



# Creating Sustainable Windbreaks

