

# **Ten Beneficial Uses for Trees**

## **1. Cut Soil Erosion**

Rows of trees break the wind on flatter lands and healthy forests protect soil from water erosion on hillsides, stream banks, and lakefronts.

## **2. Improve air & water quality**

A forest floor of leaves and decaying wood acts as a giant sponge by absorbing, filtering, and holding water; one acre of trees provides fresh, clean oxygen for seven people and will clean the air polluted by eight cars operated for 12 hours.

## **3. Increase income**

Properly planted and managed trees, either a plantation of conifers, an underplanting of hardwoods, or a fruit tree orchard, can provide excellent sources of income, such as the sale of trees, or wood and tree products.

## **4. Save energy**

Studies show windbreaks can reduce winter fuel consumption by 10 to 30 percent. Trees also save energy by shading—one tree has the cooling effect of five air conditioners. Use conifers on the north and west sides of your buildings to help block the prevailing winds in the winter, and deciduous trees on the south sides to help shade out the intense summer sun.

## **5. Protect livestock**

Trees reduce wind and can significantly reduce animal stress. Livestock not only need less feed, but their gains are higher. Shade provided by trees is also helpful to animals on very hot summer days.

## **6. Sound barrier**

Trees and windbreaks reduce noise from high-speed traffic and other sounds. Plant leaves, branches, and twigs all absorb sounds of different frequencies.

## **7. Home for wildlife**

Wooded areas make valuable cover, nesting, and breeding areas for upland game and songbirds. In winter, when all other food is blanketed with snow, seeds and fruits of trees and shrubs provide food for non-migratory species.

## **8. Living snow fence**

In snow country, properly locating a living fence of trees and shrubs parallel to your driveway or highway helps hold snow on the fields and off the roads. Use a two or three row windbreak with rows of different species of shrubs and trees for the best results, and aesthetics.

## **9. Improve crop yields**

Soil particles blown by strong winds frequently damage small crops. Yields also may be lowered by the effects of hot winds. Trees protect against these hazards.

## **10. Beautify the countryside**

Well-kept wooded areas, windbreaks, and other tree plantings undeniably enhance the aesthetic value of individual farms and the countryside. Everyone loves trees, right?

For other questions or forestry assistance, contact your Conservation District Forester, Parker Wohlstein, at [parker.wohlstein@macd.org](mailto:parker.wohlstein@macd.org) or call (906) 667-1100 ext. 632.

