

# SITE PREPARATIONS

*Proper tree site preparation is one of the most critical factors in new seedling plantings. Improperly prepared tree planting sites lead to planting difficulties, slow tree establishment, increased tree mortality, potential replanting needs and lost time in tree servcability. Below find the NRD's site preparation recommendations.*

***Begin site preparation in the fall whenever possible.***



**CROP STUBBLE** (row crop or growing wheat less than 4" tall). In the Fall, deep disk or chisel. In the Spring, light disk 4" and harrow or roto-till. (If no Fall preparation, only Spring) Disk 2 to 3 times until mellow and firm or roto-till.



**GROWING WHEAT VEGETATION OVER 4" TALL** - No Fall Preparation. In the Spring mow, shred or swath vegetation and remove it, then disk twice or roto-till until firm.



**ALFALFA or LEGUME**. In the Fall, spray area with Roundup herbicide, wait 10 days, then plow or chisel area of tree planting. In the Spring after Fall preparation, disk twice and harrow or roto-till. (If no Fall preparation, only Spring) Spray with 2-4-D plus Banvel, disk 2 to 3 times and harrow or roto-till.



**PASTURE SOD**. In the Fall, spray area with Roundup herbicide, wait 10 days, then shred and remove heavy vegetative cover; plow, chisel or deep disk. In the Spring after Fall preparation, disk twice till mellow and firm or roto-till. (If no Fall preparation, only Spring) Disk 3 to 4 times gradually getting shallower then harrow or roto-till 2 times until mellow and firm.



**PASTURE SOD - ERODIBLE OR STEEP SITE WITH STRIP PREPARATION**. Shred, swath or mow and remove vegetation. In the Fall, apply contact herbicides such as Roundup in strips 3 feet wide. In the Spring after Fall preparation, remove all vegetative cover, for a complete kill, or roto-till strips prior to planting. (If no Fall preparation, only Spring) Mow to 3" height, remove residue and roto-till shallow 4" 2 to 3 times. Apply contact herbicide 10 days prior to planting.



**OLD TREE BELT**. In the Fall, doze out all stumps and remove all wood and debris; deep chisel. In the Spring after Fall preparation, disk twice then harrow.

- **Avoid sites where recent heavy applications of herbicide were applied, and old livestock pens, where high salt content may be present.**
- **Limit spring tillage to 3" - 4" depth.**
- **Do not over-till as ground may become powder-dry. Easy for seedlings to dry out.**
- **Avoid tillage when sites are wet, as the ground will become hard, chunky and unmanageable.**
- **MOST IMPORTANT: Seedbeds should always be worked to garden-like conditions prior to planting: mellow, not cloddy or slabby, weed free, firm and void of green matter such as green wheat, alfalfa or native hay. Such materials turned under shortly before planting cause poor root-to-soil contact, air pockets and interference with planting machine use.**
- **If the site cannot be properly prepared for spring planting, it is best to leave the ground fallow and plant in a subsequent year.**

