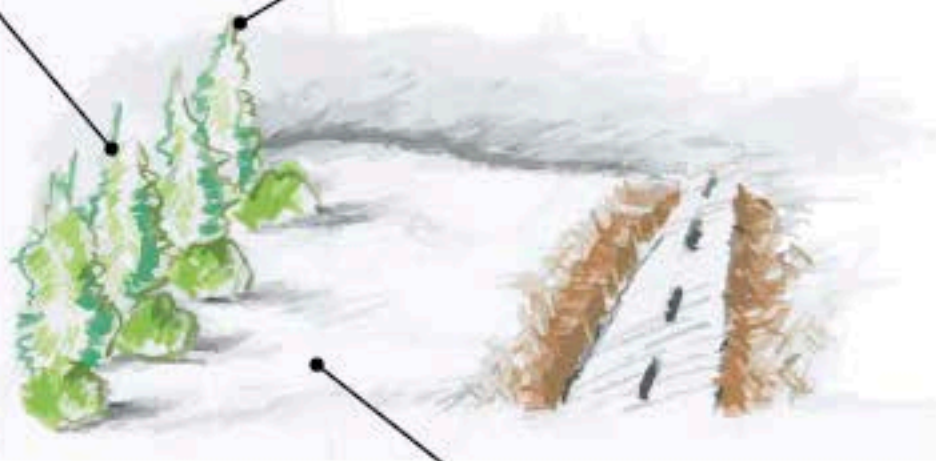


How to design a living snow fence

DENSITY: Studies show that vegetation with about 50% density will capture and store the greatest amount of snow.

HEIGHT: Doubling the height will more than quadruple the amount of snow captured.

ROADS: When protected by a well-designed living snow fence, roads are less likely to have snow drifts.



ORIENT your living snow fence at right angles to prevailing winter winds.

MINIMUM DISTANCE:

- 200 feet in open country with snowy winters.
- 100 feet in areas with natural obstructions or less snowy winters.

Planting a living snow fence

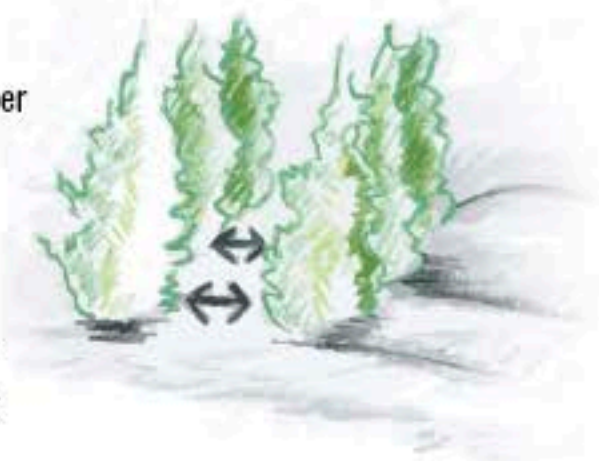
Species to plant

Select species that are native to your area or adapted to local soils, climate and growing conditions. Evergreens are ideal because of their height and year-round foliage, but many deciduous shrubs work well, especially in combination with evergreens.



Rows and spacing

Consider average annual snowfall in your area when determining the number of rows to plant. Spacing between rows is based on crown width, but leave enough space for equipment to pass between rows, if necessary. Within a row, use relatively close spacing between trees and/or shrubs. For example, 6 to 8 feet between junipers and cedars, and 10 to 12 feet between pines and spruce is often recommended.



Helping seedlings survive

In moist climates, survival of trees and shrubs is usually not a problem. If annual precipitation is less than 22 inches, irrigation or other soil moisture conservation methods will be needed. Summer fallowing (keeping the planting areas free of vegetation the year before planting) helps give seedlings a better start. Keep livestock away from your living snow fence and use mulch or landscape fabric to conserve water and help control weeds.

