



A Landowner's Guide to LIVING SNOW FENCES

Closed roads . . . reduced visibility . . .
whiteout conditions . . .
farmsteads without access to emergency services . . .
travel delays . . . dumped milk . . .
stranded motorists . . . schools closed . . .

Have you noticed big snowdrifts near your property after a storm? Are you ever concerned about your safety during a blizzard? Did you know that something can be done to stop blowing snow?

Roads adjacent to your property have been identified as problem sites for drifting snow. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) would like to work with you to design and construct a living snow fence that will control the blowing snow and fit into your land use/farming operation. Highway and emergency service authorities know that creating living snow fences provide big benefits to all residents of snow country.

These benefits include:

- preventing big drifts that lead to stranded motorists
- improving driver visibility to reduce vehicle accidents
- reducing use of the public's money by reducing plowing
- using fewer plow truck drivers
- lessening impacts on our environment with less salt use, fewer truck trips, and less fuel consumption
- reducing shipping delays for goods and services

As a result, local representatives from the living snow fence work group would like you to consider establishing a living snow fence on your property. We'd like to spend some time discussing our goal to prevent some of the human inconveniences caused by blowing and drifting snow.

The real cost of having to close Minnesota's transportation corridors for a 24-hour period

\$66 million
in lost wages and salaries

\$8 million
in state and local taxes

\$17 million
in federal taxes

\$27 million
in retail sales

TOTAL:
\$118 million

all non-recoverable*
*info Standard and Poor's

April 1999, North American Snow Conference



Your living snow fence work group primary contact person is: —————>

Place your card here



Mn/DOT's Experience Managing Snow

As snowplow drivers will tell you, the quantity of snow that blows onto the road in exposed, windy locations can be hundreds of times greater than the amount that falls directly on the road. Without barriers to stop drifting snow, drifts often reclaim a road.

What are Living Snow Fences?

Living snow fences are designed plantings of trees and/or shrubs and native grasses located along roads or around communities and farmsteads. Properly designed and placed, these living barriers trap snow as it blows across fields, piling it up before it reaches a road, waterway, farmstead or community.

Participating in the Program

To participate in the living snow fence program, you must enroll in the CP 17A-Living Snow Fence Practice within the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program and enter into a living snow fence agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

You will receive annual compensation, up to a 15-year time period, for the:

- Acreage enrolled in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.
- Inconvenience of farming around the living snow fence from Mn/DOT.
- Growing and maintaining the living snow fence from Mn/DOT.

We ask landowners to:

- Identify tile line locations.
- Provide a crop history and herbicides used in weed control.
- Provide agricultural equipment widths, especially the width of your planter.

- Share past experiences while working the land—for example, soil types, compaction and drainage as well as weed, deer and rodent problems.
- Help determine the best access route to install, maintain and monitor the planting.

Working With the Living Snow Fence Work Group

To make this process as easy and fair as possible, you can expect to:

- Receive professional guidance and compensation.
- Work with a project manager who has the authority to make decisions, knows the local area, has the ability to work with local government entities and is familiar with the local drifting problems.
- Meet with a professional to review the planting site for selecting appropriate plant material and snow fence location.
- Receive a professionally prepared plan that identifies the location and acreage of the living snow fence and types of plant materials.
- Receive a written compensation offer.

Partners in Snow Control

You are creating a legacy for present and future generations if you choose to have a living snow fence on your property. A living snow fence will help to keep your community vital by improving access to markets, schools and emergency services during severe winter weather.

This publication is a product of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services. The living snow fence local work group consists of representatives from the Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

