

MnDOT's living snow fence program focuses on planting trees, shrubs and native grasses alongside sections of state maintained highways identified as having a blowing and drifting snow problem.

The program provides cost share assistance to landowners to achieve 100 percent cost share for planting a living snow fence.

This cost share assistance includes:

- Installing geotextile fabric weed barrier up to \$1.00 per lineal foot.
- Planting trees and shrubs.
- Planting a pollinator seed mixture in snow catch area.

MnDOT provides an 8 percent administration payment (based on the cost of materials and labor for planting the living snow fence) to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts for coordinating design and installation of living snow fence plantings.

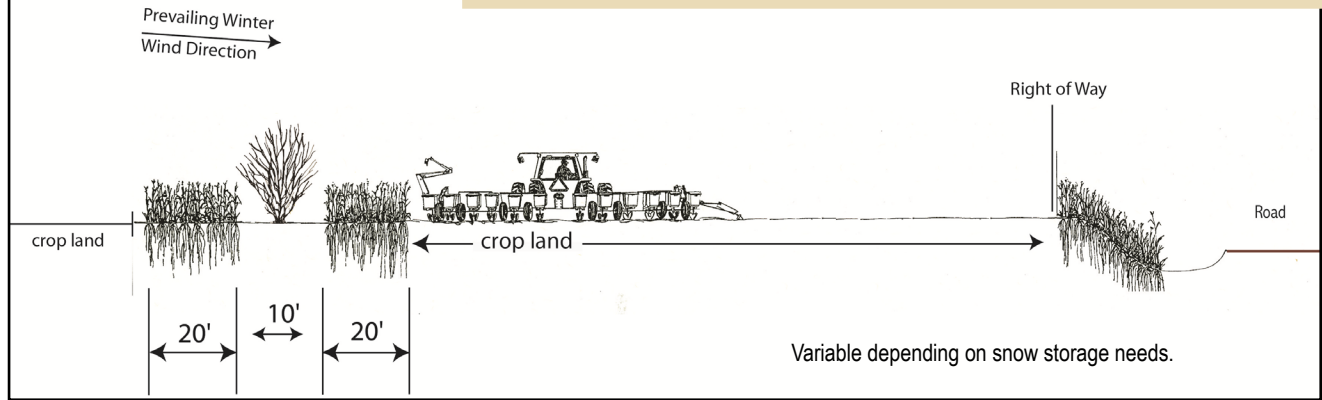
MnDOT also provides annual payment for 10 to 15 years to landowners for snow storage and maintenance of living snow fences.

Snow storage payment is based on a 150-foot wide snow catch area. Snow fence maintenance payment is currently set at \$155 per acre of living snow fence installed.

This payment provides for an annual adjustment in yearly payment based on performance of the Farm Product Price Index. However, if the Farm Product Price Index declines over a given year, MnDOT agrees not to pay less than the dollar amount agreed upon at sign-up.

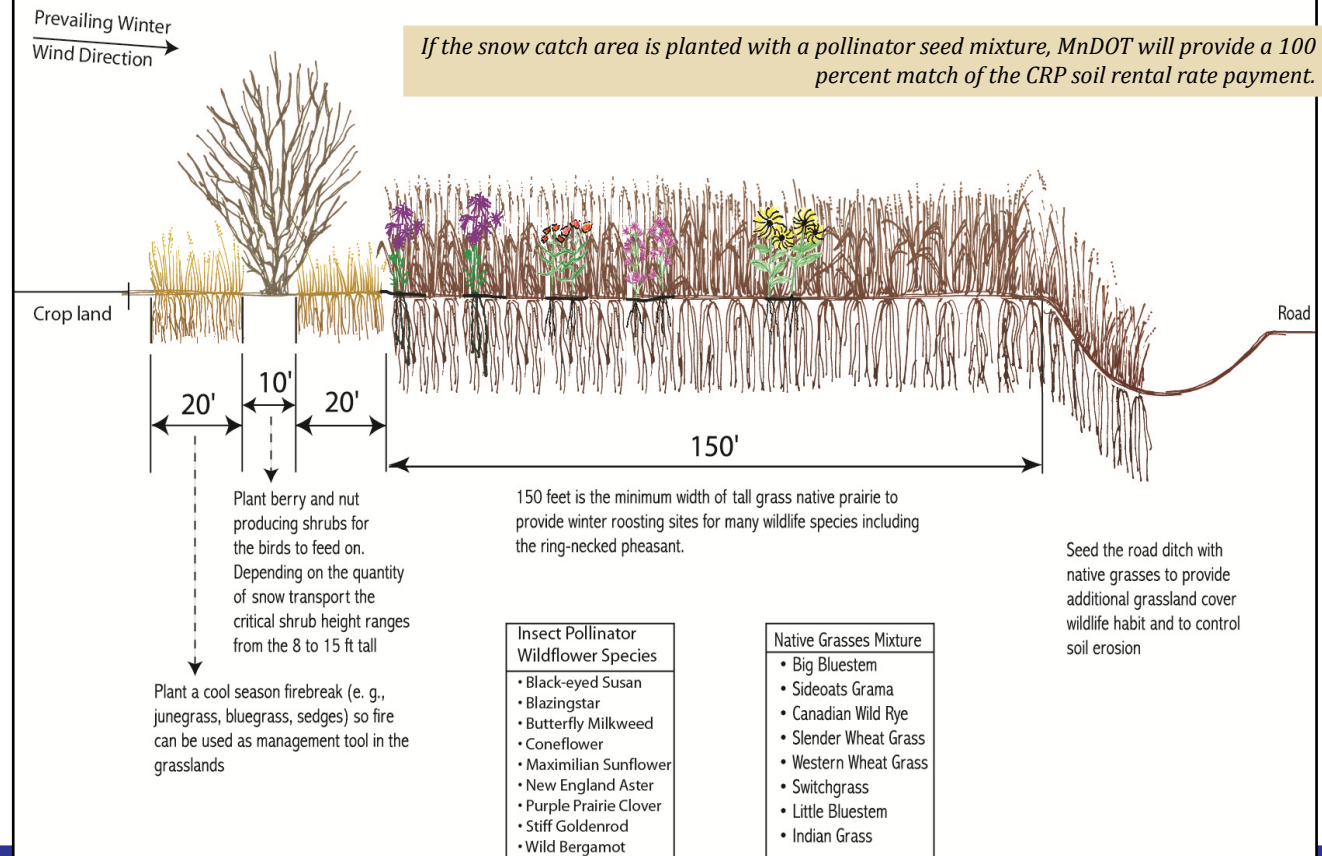
Twin Shrub Row with Snow Catch Area Being Cropped

If the snow catch area is cropped, MnDOT will provide a 50 percent match of the CRP soil rental rate payment.



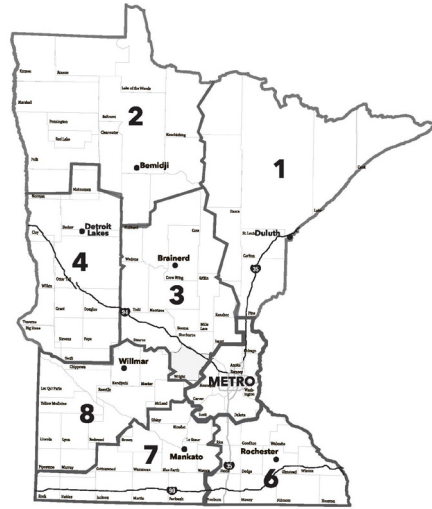
Living Snow Fence with a Grassland Nesting Bird and Insect Pollinator Component Planted in Snow Catch Area.

If the snow catch area is planted with a pollinator seed mixture, MnDOT will provide a 100 percent match of the CRP soil rental rate payment.



Resources

- Living Snow Fence
mndot.gov/environment/livingsnowfence/
- Center for Transportation Studies
<http://snowcontroltools.umn.edu/>
- Plant selector
mndot.gov/roadsides/plantselector/
- Minnesota noxious weed control strategies
mndot.gov/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf
- Pollinator best management practices for roadsides and other rights of way
www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/~ /media/Files/protecting/bmps/pollinators/pollinatorbmpsroad.pdf
- Insect pollinator best management practices for Minnesota yards and gardens
www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/~ /media/Files/protecting/bmps/pollinators/pollinaryardbmps.pdf
- Promote pollinators in agricultural landscapes
www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/~ /media/Files/protecting/bmps/pollinators/pollinatorsagland.pdf
- MnDOT erosion control and stormwater management
www.dot.state.mn.us/environment/erosion/seedmixes.html



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MnDOT Living Snow Fence Partnership

Program payment structure

