



WINDBREAK AWARD

The award was selected on the following: The primary purpose is to provide protection from damaging winds for residential areas, livestock, or fields; the original windbreak must consist of planted trees or shrubs; the plants must be managed and in healthy condition with no significant gaps in the windbreaks; windbreak location, density, and length must be adequate to provide the desired protection; windbreaks should be a minimum of three years old.

This year's winner of the Windbreak Award is E. Joe and Helen Hanks, for their project that's been installed around their residence. The Hanks' windbreak was established in 2002, and was started before the house was built, in anticipation that it would be beneficial once construction was complete. The trees were started as 6 inch seedlings and have grown several feet since planted.

As many of you probably know, the Hanks' have been involved with conservation in the area and the Lane County Conservation District for many years and putting in this project was a natural step for them. For those that have not taken a look at the windbreak, it consists of 4 different rows of trees and shrubs. The north row consists of plums, choke cherries, and currants. It has two rows of red cedars, and also includes a row of burr oaks and Austrian pines. The final row of shrubs nearest the house is lilacs.

To keep the windbreak healthy, weed barrier was put in before planting, and is watered in late fall and early winter. The benefits from the establishment of the windbreak include a wind shelter for the house, as well as the wildlife aspect. The fruit trees have attracted several species of birds that the couple enjoys seeing on a regular basis. Also, not only do the birds enjoy the fruit, but Helen gets a chance to can some of the product as well.