Shelterbelt Rejuvenation

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Key messages

- *Assess how many trees are dead and dying*
- *SAFETY consideration due to potential hazard risk s*
- *What tree and shrub species are declining*
- *Space available for expansion or no new space available*
- *Understory and interplanting planting options*
- *Natural regeneration through root suckering or stump sprouting*
- *Natural regeneration through seeds*
- *Choosing appropriate tree and shrub species*
- *Plant trees properly – this the MOST IMPORTANT thing to do*
- *Water properly – each tree requires a different amount of water*
- *After new trees were established removed dead and decadent trees*

Range Rd 143

Understory vegetation management

Assessment

Gaps

Understory and interplanting planting

Natural regeneration

Seed production

Ash – 16 species in North America, prolific seed producer and readily established in disturbed areas with natural regeneration

American Elm – prolific seed producer when mature - site disturbance will encourage natural regeneration

White spruce – produce seeds every 4-7 years but in city more frequently due to stress conditions – soil disturbance is key for natural regeneration

Pine – produce seed every year but for natural regeneration needs fire or soil disturbance created by fire

Aspen – suckering is the most common

Poplar clones – from stump – coppicing

Mature Colorado (blue) spruce produce 79,500-132,500 seeds per bushel of cones

Tree and shrub coppicing

- Almost any shrub species can be rejuvenated through coppicing.
- Cut back 6 to 8 inches above the ground to provide a good shrub row.
- Broadleaf trees that have shown good results are green ash, hybrid poplars cottonwood, boxelder and the elms, especially Siberian elm.
- Tree seedlings grow wild from seed of existing species.

Conclusion

- Take time and assess overall health of your older shelterbelt
- Consider safety and tree hazard
- Plan what options you may choose
- Under and interplanting is common option
- Encourage natural regeneration – seedling from own shelterbelts are BEST
- Natural regeneration through coppicing and suckering is great option
- Leave some dead and snag trees as they are great habitat for many birds and beneficial insects
- Don’t rush to remove all dead trees