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While good field windbreaks and farmstead shelterbelts are not hard to establish, it must not be expected that one can obtain good results by planting trees this spring without some planning and care afterward. Marvin Smith, extension for-  
ester, gives 5 steps leading to successful establishment of a protection tree planting: (1) Proper soil preparation, (2) Selection of adapted planting stock, (3) Correct planting, (4) Thorough and timely cultivation and (5) Protection from livestock and rodents.

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Q. Last summer an SCS man was out testing my soil and taking samples. Can you tell me what fertilizer I need?

A. That man was a soil scientist making a conservation survey for the district. He does not test soil. He maps the land to show the kind of soil, slope and amount of erosion. This information is placed on an aerial photograph of the farm to be used later by you and the SCS technician when you develop your complete farm conservation plan. Soil tests obtained through the county agent and the University soils testing laboratory indicate fertilizer needs.

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On the lighter soils where gardeners and truck farmers are confronted with wind erosion early in the spring after seeding, it is often advisable to plant between rows of onions alternate rows of another crop that germinate and emerge quickly -- such as radish, oats or wheat. After the main crop is through the surface and well established, the alternate crop can be removed, says O. C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist.

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The well-known saying, "The busier you are, the more people ask of you," applies in the case of soil conservation. A farmer in South Wabasha Soil Conservation District inquired casually about getting assistance with strip cropping just in case he decided to do it. As soon as he found that there were 41 requests ahead of him, he decided that he just had to have two fields laid out immediately.

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