



Planting trees in the vicinity of field tiles can be a concern when deciding whether to plant windbreaks, shelterbelts or creek buffers adjacent to the farm field.

Tree species that are suited to wet areas and are shallow to intermediately rooted have many fibrous roots that extend laterally for long distances and are more prone to clogging wet drainage tiles.

Other water-loving trees which are deep rooted are only prone to clogging drainage tiles when in close proximity (1-2 metres) to the tile. Plugging may occur quickly or it may require several seasons of repeated wet conditions.

Conversely, tree species which prefer dry/well-drained soil are less likely to plug farm drains. Roots of these types of trees may encounter conditions within tiles that are too wet for the roots to survive. It is important to note that tile plugging by these types of trees is rare, but can still occur.

Some field tiles may drain into streams or ponds which have a riparian buffer, or are to be planted with a tree and shrub buffer. In this case, a section of non-perforated tile should be installed. (Roots will not penetrate non-perforated tile.) The non-perforated section of tile should extend from the outlet, pass under the vegetated buffer, and continue for at least 15 meters into the cultivated field where it can be connected to the perforated tile.

Trees that are prone to clogging field tiles:

Shallow Rooted Trees	Intermediately Rooted Trees	Deep Rooted Trees
All Poplars	American elm	Bur oak
All Willows	Black ash	Black walnut
Black Maple	Green ash	Hackberry
Manitoba Maple	White ash	Bitternut hickory
Red Maple	Pin oak	Shellbark hickory
Silver Maple	Swamp white oak	
Tamarack	Sycamore	
White cedar	Mulberry	
Speckled alder		

Trees that rarely clog field tiles:

Shallow Rooted Trees	Intermediately Rooted Trees	Deep Rooted Trees
American beech	Apple	Red oak
Black cherry	Pear	White oak
White birch	Peach	Butternut
Norway maple	Plum	Shagbark hickory
Staghorn sumac	American chestnut	Tulip
Hemlock	Sugar maple	
White pine		
Red pine		
White spruce		
Colorado spruce		

