## Using Weed Mat

Plastic mulch weed barrier fabric has been used since 1998 in Pope County to promote tree growth and provide weed control. This comes in 6-ft wide continuous rolls which is machine installed with 1 ft on each side anchoring the mat down.

The mat kills weeds, which are competition for nutrition and water. It comes in black, which creates a microclimate heating the soil up like a greenhouse effect. Moisture condenses under the mat promoting tree growth and higher survival rates. The mat is guaranteed for 5 years.

Over the last 30 years from 1970 to 2000 we had 24.79 inches of average precipitation per year qualifying us for the cost share. The precipitation must be under 25 inches if it isn't the cost share would not be available.

The 6 'wide continuous roll is the "Cadillac" of weed control!!! This year over 50 miles of weed mat was installed. If you are interested in using weed mat for your tree plantings or have questions please call our office.\*



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Pope Soil and Water Conservation district prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.





"The Cadillac of weed control."





The weed mat is laid over the top of the recently planted tree. A slit is cut and the tree is pulled through. The weed mat is stapled down on the ends to prevent it from loosening up.



As you will notice the trees stay weed free and receive extra protection from the weed mat when it is laid.



The picture above was taken in 1999 of a Field Windbreak that was planted in 1998. The picture below is of the same windbreak in the spring of 2003.





