When preparing to erect a windbreak fence, it is very important that the preparation work is done properly. Planning and good advice is the secret to ensure that the windbreak fence you are about to erect is constructed so as to minimise potential problems from the start. The key factors you need to consider are:

**CORRECT WINDBREAK FOR JOB**
There are many different types of windbreaks with different wind porosities. It is important to have the correct windbreak which will filter the wind and not create turbulent air on the other side which will cause damage, so to get the right advice to evaluate what is the best for your situation.

**WINDBREAK SPACING**
Equally important is ensuring that you have the correct spacing between your wind break fences. This will ensure the wind is kept above your crop across the entire area being protected.

**POLE SIZE**
Pole size is determined by the height and type of the windbreak being used. For standard 2 to 4m high windbreak fences, pole sizes are usually between 125 and 175 S.E.D. For windbreaks higher than 4m it is recommended a pole size between 175 and 220 S.E.D be used.

Ramming poles into the ground is recommended. The depth required is not only dependent on the height and windbreak material, but also on the soil type.

Get the right advice to ensure that your poles are able to withstand the wind loading they will bear.

**POLE SPACING**
Pole spacing is also dependant on pole size, the windbreak type and especially the ground conditions. Average pole spacing’s are between 3.5m to 7m but again get advice for your situation.

**BATTENS & BILLOW WIRES**
Battens and billow wires are the most common cause of windbreak structure defects. Incorrectly installed, these can cause chaffing by rubbing against the material and over a short period of time the material will tear away from the structure.

Battens must be clean shaven and the edges planed back to eliminate the sharp edges. If billow wires are required, it pays to consider the plastic coated option. Even though more expensive, they can pay off in the long run.

**PANELS**
If you have need for a 6m high fence, consider doing this in 2m wide sections (i.e. three 2m wide sections with a 50mm gap in between). This will reduce the loading on the poles, but in the event of some damage occurring you may only have to repair / replace part of your fence rather than the whole large panel.

Planning and preparation is essential to reliable windbreak fences and getting the right advice is the key. Cosio Industries are here to ensure that you don’t get caught flapping in the wind.

*By Warren Murphy- General Manager- Cosio Industries Ltd*