Wildlife Catalog

Seed for Wildlife Food Plots

“Food Plot Solutions from the People who know Seed”™
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INTRODUCTION TO PLANTING FOOD PLOTS

Pennington’s Wildlife Catalog of Seed for Wildlife Food Plots offers you a unique guide for establishing food plots to attract and hold wildlife. Each of the varieties or mixes in this book have planting information to help you establish productive food plots. To supplement these directions, we offer the following tips on basic planting practices:

1. Always lime and fertilize, because most woodland soils are low in phosphorous and tend to be acidic. A soil test will tell you how much to use, and information on taking soil tests can be obtained from your local County Extension Office.

2. Always prepare the soil by plowing, smoothing and firming the seedbed. Good seed-soil contact is essential for a thick, productive stand.

3. Broadcast seeding by hand or with a spreader can produce good results if you are careful to cover most seed no deeper than ¼ inch and use a log, light drag or culti packer to firm the soil after planting.

4. Select a site that is long and narrow with curves or bends to provide a sense of safety for wildlife. This is essential for deer and turkey. A rule of thumb is ¼ acre of food plot to 10 acres of habitat.

5. Avoid drought prone sites such as deep sands or shallow rocky soils. Southwest facing sites are hotter in the summer and tend to dry out fast. Plant warm season plots in areas with afternoon shade. The reverse is generally true for cool season plots.

6. A minimum of 50% sunshine is essential for a healthy, productive food plot.

7. Grow something in your food plots year round to provide adequate nutrition for wildlife. Plowing strips and planting into existing plots is an excellent way to extend the productivity of the plot and hold wildlife all year long.

8. You may want to keep a record of each plot which can include planting and fertilizer information and number of animals observed or harvested.

9. Wire cages placed in the food plots that keep deer from grazing will provide you with valuable information on how productive the varieties are and how much forage is being grazed.

These simple tips along with specific information on seeding rates and times should give you the basics to grow abundant year round food for your wildlife. Growing food plots is an economical and legal way to produce larger, healthier animals and increase your hunting success or wildlife sightings. Planting food plots for wildlife is legal in most areas of the United States if you follow normal agricultural practices. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Service Office and State Game Commission for specific information.

Pennington Seed is proud to offer wildlife seed to improve your wildlife habitat. Our varieties and various mixes have been field tested for many years on the Pennington hunting preserve and are the finest products on the market today.

See Page 21 for more details on Maintaining Food Plots
Use the following planting method for all products:

**PLANTING:**

**METHOD:** If weeds exist on your food plot site use a non-selective type chemical burn down to kill the weeds and reduce competition. Prepare a smooth, firm seedbed by plowing and dragging the soil. This will remove all vegetation and debris from the site thus eliminating competition. Fertilizer and lime can be applied during this step so it can be worked into the soil. Before spreading the seed, check to see that the seedbed is firm using a culti-packer or drag to firm it if needed. Broadcast the seed at the recommended rate evenly across the area. Using a light drag or packer, cover the seed no deeper than the maximum depth indicated on the seed package. Making good seed to soil contact is the key to establishing a productive food plot.

**FERTILITY:**

**SOIL TEST:** Apply lime according to test results to maintain a 6.0-7.0 pH

**FERTILITY:** Apply Pennington Wildlife Food Plot Fertilizer 8-12-12 at a rate of 400 lbs./acre or 10 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. Follow the directions on the bag for subsequent applications. This fertilizer is specially formulated for wildlife food plots as well as native and natural vegetation. It is made up of slow release nitrogen fertilizer that will last for months. It has all the major and minor nutrients your plants will need such as iron, zinc, boron and many more. In addition, it contains dolomitic pelletized limestone to aid in neutralizing acidic soils.

These icons represent the type of wildlife each product feeds best.
COOL SEASON

RACKMASTER SEED MIXTURES

Rackmaster Elite
Type: cool season perennial seed mixture

Uses: Rackmaster Elite is a unique food plot seed mixture developed to attract whitetail deer, produce high yields and be a true perennial that can last for years without replanting. This product was developed to improve the health of the entire deer herd, providing high protein to increase antler and body mass. It will also help increase the weight of developing fawns and improve milk production in does. Rackmaster Elite features Durana and Patriot, two of Pennington’s elite white clovers, plus Choice Chicory and other quality forage ingredients such as small grain brassicas winter peas and reseeding annual clovers.

Durana and Patriot White Clovers are true perennials, genetically improved and university proven to be more persistent in stressed environments such as over-grazing or weed competition. They are low maintenance clovers that tolerate acidic soil conditions and aggressively compete with weeds and grasses commonly found in many food plots. Durana and Patriot will produce over 30% protein and are university proven to last three times longer than conventional Ladino-type clovers. These two clovers have been exclusively selected by Pennington because of their wide adaptation to many climates, high protein and easy maintenance in food plots.

Choice Chicory is an elite Pennington variety of chicory that produces up to 35% protein. It is a perennial plant that exhibits a greater persistence through summer’s heat and produces high yielding, high protein food supplies throughout the summer months. Choice Chicory is also improved to be a more winter active variety, extending the growing season of this unique forb. Choice’s extensive root system allows it to pull minerals from deep in the soil up through its leaves, making it mineral rich and highly palatable in addition to being high in protein.

The Durana and Patriot White Clovers along with other legumes in this mixture are pre-inoculated so they will produce nitrogen and share it with the other plants, reducing the amount of expensive commercial nitrogen needed. These legumes produce as much as 100 lbs. of free nitrogen per acre per year for the food plot.

Planting:

Date: Aug. 15 – Oct. 1: Zones C, D & F
      Sept. 1 – Nov. 1: Zones A, B & E
      Feb: Zones A, B & E
      March – April: Zones C, D & F
Rate: 25 lbs. covers up to ½ acre
Depth: ¼” maximum

Rackmaster Deluxe (Fall)
Type: cool season annual seed mixture

Uses: Rackmaster Deluxe fall mixtures contain small grains mixed with annual legumes for attracting deer. This fall mixture is regionally developed to provide the best planting material marketed for your area. These cool season plots are important to help your deer herd build up the carbohydrates needed as stored fat to survive the harsh winter months. Maintaining good body condition through the rut and the winter stress season will mean the difference in your overall management program. This seed mixture also contains reseeding annual clovers that will provide food through early summer and reseed itself from year to year. Wintergrazer 70 rye, Arrowleaf clover, Crimson clover, wheat, oats, and Austrian winter peas are just a few of the ingredients you may find in the regionally developed Rackmaster mixtures.

Planting:

Date: North: Aug. 15 – Oct. 1, Feb. – Apr.
      South: Sept. 15 – Nov. 25
Rate: 100 lbs./acre or 2½ lbs/1000 sq. ft.
Depth: ¼”
Rackmaster Choice Chicory
Type: cool season perennial

Uses: Rackmaster® Choice Chicory is a new variety of perennial chicory developed by New Zealand breeders for the United States. Choice is a great name because this chicory produces high quality, high protein, high yielding choice forage for deer and other wildlife. Choice has been selected for its high yields, improved cool season growth and improved persistence. Choice can produce up to 6 tons of dry matter forage per acre per year with protein levels over 35% and digestibility of the new leaves up to 90 to 95%. Through its deep taproot, Choice Chicory has the ability to make minerals from the soil more available in its leaves compared to other types of forage. Increased potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, zinc and sodium make Choice Chicory leaves irresistible to whitetail deer. Choice Chicory is a highly preferred, grazing tolerant plant that will have good drought resistance.

Planting:
Date: Aug. – Oct. and Feb. – Apr.
Rate: 3 lbs./acre or 2 oz./1000 sq.ft.
Depth: ¼” maximum

Rackmaster Clover Trio
Type: cool season perennial legume blend

Uses: Rackmaster Clover Trio is a blend of annual and perennial clovers designed to germinate quickly and provide a strong start to a food plot that will persist for years. The staggered maturity dates of these clovers will ensure that there is adequate protein rich forage available to your deer herd when it is most needed. The critical times for adequate protein are during summer antler growth, post rut and spring fawn drop. Clover Trio makes an excellent stand-alone plot, or works well mixed with small grains like wheat and oats.

Planting:
Date: North Aug. 15 – Oct. 1
March – May
South Sept. – Dec.
Rate: 10 lbs./acre or ¼ lb/1000 sq.ft.
Depth: 1/8” maximum

Rackmaster Deer Greens
Type: annual forage

Uses: Deer Greens is a combination of annual rape, kale and turnip that will provide an abundant mass of green leafy plants that are very attractive to deer in the fall and winter months. Many hunters will add Deer Greens in small quantities (2 lbs./acre) to a fall mixture of grass and clover to provide a fast growing, attractive component to their mixture. Deer Greens become even more attractive after a frost because the sugar content becomes more concentrated. Deer greens work well by themselves or make a great addition to a mixture.

Planting:
Date: North Aug. 15 – Oct. 1
March – May
South Sept. – Nov.
Rate: 10 lbs/acre or ¼ lb/1,000 sq. ft.
Depth: ¼”
**Rackmaster Durana Clover**  
Type: cool season perennial legume

**Uses:** Rackmaster® Durana White Clover is the newest white clover on the market for whitetail deer management. Durana was developed by Dr. Joe Bouton, while at the University of Georgia, to persist under grazing pressure, tolerate acidic soils, compete aggressively with weeds and grasses and to tolerate low management situations. Durana, unlike ladino clover, is an intermediate white clover. Intermediate clovers have a medium leaf size and a leaf density that is very thick, from the ground to the top of the plant. This leaf density will help prevent weed invasion. Durana possesses a high stolon density; it has 97 stolons per square foot, unlike conventional ladino clovers which only have 52 per square foot. It is pre-inoculated and lime coated for easy seeding and optimal nitrogen fixation. Durana will outlast conventional ladino clovers in food plots and persist for years on good moisture holding soils. With protein levels of over 25% and digestibility of over 75%, Durana will make an excellent pure stand or combination planting for any food plot to feed, attract and hold game on your property. Durana is persistent, productive and a highly preferred white clover.

**Planting:**
**Date:**  
**North** Aug. 15 – Oct. 1  
March – May  
**South** Sept. – Dec.
**Rate:** 5 lbs./acre or 2 oz./1000 sq.ft.
**Depth:** 1/8” maximum

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**Rackmaster Patriot Clover**  
Type: cool season perennial legume

**Uses:** Rackmaster® Patriot White Clover is another new white clover on the market for whitetail deer management. Patriot is a cross between Durana and a ladino type. Patriot was developed by Dr. Joe Bouton, University of Georgia, to be a very productive forage yielder and persist under grazing pressure, tolerate acidic soils, compete aggressively with weeds and grasses and to tolerate low management situations. Patriot is pre-inoculated and lime coated for easy seeding and optimal nitrogen fixation. Patriot will outlast conventional ladino clovers in food plots, produce just as much forage and persist for years on good moisture holding soils. With protein levels of over 25% and digestibility of over 75%, Patriot will make an excellent pure stand or combination planting for any food plot to feed, attract and hold game on your property.

**Planting:**
**Date:**  
**North** Aug. 15 – Oct. 1  
March – May  
**South** Sept. – Dec.
**Rate:** 5 lbs./acre or 2 oz./1000 sq.ft.
**Depth:** 1/8” maximum
### Rackmaster Refuge

**Type:** cool season mixture of annual and perennial seed

**Uses:** Rackmaster® Refuge is a fall and spring planted seed mixture of annual greens, perennial clover and chicory that will provide an abundant high protein diet for deer, turkey and other wildlife. Refuge mixture is an easy to plant mixture that will thrive on most any soil type for years to come. Refuge makes an ideal food plot that will germinate quickly to provide immediate high protein food supplies to fill the nutritional gaps found in nature. With fast germination and immediate forage production, your plots will start feeding wildlife days after germination and continue feeding throughout the fall, winter, spring and summer months because of the staggered growth habits of the different plants in this mixture.

**Planting:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>Aug 15 – Oct. 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frost seeding</td>
<td>Jan. – Feb.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>March – May</td>
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<td>South</td>
<td>Sept. – Dec.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>10 lbs./acre or ¼ lb/1000 sq.ft.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depth</td>
<td>¼” maximum</td>
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### Pennington Deer & Wildlife Seed Mixture

**Type:** cool season annual seed mixture

**Uses:** This is an economical seed combination for wildlife food plots. This mixture will produce rapid food supplies in the fall to help your deer herd build up for the stressful conditions of winter. This combination is high in carbohydrates, helping deer to build fat and energy in the fall and winter. Small grains, brassicas and annual legumes make this a great seed combination for fall planting.

**Planting:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sept. – Nov.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>100 lbs/acre or 2½ lbs/1000 sq. ft.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depth</td>
<td>¼” to ½”</td>
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Buckmasters Feeding Frenzy
Type: cool season annual seed mixture

Buckmasters Feeding Frenzy is a seed mixture designed to germinate quickly, grow fast and hold whitetails around your food plot for the entire hunting season. A combination of tender small grains, winter hardy rye, brassicas, sweet winter peas and re-seeding high protein clovers are specifically formulated in the correct percentages to ensure that deer can utilize each plot at its maximum potential. After planting Feeding Frenzy, the oats will germinate first and quickly grow, luring deer from surrounding areas to your food plot. The other ingredients will germinate and begin to mature soon after. The time tested sweet winter peas will provide a highly desirable forage which will continue to attract deer to your hunting area. As winter sets in, the carbohydrates in the brassicas are converted to sugars, making the plants highly palatable and promoting energy and nutrition during the coldest months following the rut. The clovers will grow through the winter into spring even after the hunting season is over providing high quality nutrition for post rut bucks and pregnant does. Every seed is treated with GermMax to maximize germination rates and get your plants off to a strong and healthy start.

Planting:
Date: Aug. 15 – Oct. 1: Zones C, D and F
      Sept. 1 – Nov. 1: Zones A, B and E
Rate: 25 lbs./½ acre
Depth: ¼”

Jackie Bushman
founded Buckmasters in 1985 and since then he has cultivated a strong following of over 330,000 members, making Buckmasters the largest association of whitetail deer hunters in the world. Pennington Seed, America’s Premier Seed Company since 1945, and Buckmasters have teamed up to offer revolutionary new seed mixtures to improve your wildlife habitat and help you grow the largest and healthiest deer possible. The Buckmasters seed mixtures are field tested and guaranteed by Pennington and Buckmasters to produce high protein food plots that deer love to eat.

Buckmasters Ultimate Wildlife Seed Mixture contains Pennington’s exclusive clovers such as Durana and Patriot which are University tested and proven to last up to three times longer than conventional Ladino white clovers. Durana and Patriot are two powerhouse white clovers, blended with a variety of super-high protein plants to include Choice Chicory, Red and Crimson Clovers and Arrowleaf Clover. This mixture of ingredients will provide a year-round food source for wildlife that can last for years without replanting. Buckmasters Ultimate is pre-inoculated so you can simply sow and grow your Ultimate, high protein food plot for the biggest, healthiest deer possible!

Planting:
Date: North  Aug 15 – Oct. 1
      March – May
South  Sept. – Dec.
      Jan. – Mar.
Rate: 4 lbs./½ acre
Depth: 1/8” maximum

Jackie Bushman
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Planting:
Date: North  Aug 15 – Oct. 1
      March – May
South  Sept. – Dec.
      Jan. – Mar.
Rate: 4 lbs./½ acre
Depth: 1/8” maximum
**Austrian Winter Peas**  
Type: cool season annual legume

**Uses:** Austrian winter peas will make a great food plot or addition to a mixture planted in the fall to attract deer. Highly favored by whitetails, these fast growing peas will attract deer to a plot soon after germination making them a favorite of bow hunters.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** Sept. – Nov.
- **Rate:** 50 lbs./acre or 1¼ lbs/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½”

**Birdsfoot Trefoil**  
Type: perennial legume

**Uses:** Birdsfoot Trefoil will make great forage for deer, turkey and other wildlife in harsh conditions. It is very tolerant of poorly drained, lowland or acidic soils. It is drought resistant and salt tolerant but not adapted to the Deep South. Trefoil is very slow to establish, but once established it is persistent and resistant to browsing.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** Aug. – Oct. and Feb. – Apr.
- **Rate:** 10 lbs./acre or ¼ lb/1000 sq. ft.
- **Depth:** ¼”

**Sweet Blue Lupine**  
Type: cool season annual legume

**Uses:** Blue Lupine has become a favored planting by many wildlife enthusiasts wanting to attract deer, turkey, quail and other game. It produces excellent high quality deer feed in the fall and spring months. Lupine produces a beautiful blue spike-like bloom and also makes excellent seed production for game birds.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** North: Apr. – May  
               South: Sept. – Oct. and Mar. – Apr.
- **Rate:** 100 lbs./acre or 2½ lbs/1000 sq. ft.
- **Depth:** 1” maximum

**Arrowleaf Clover**  
Type: cool season reseeding annual legume

**Uses:** Arrowleaf clover is a very high yielding and high quality reseeding clover. The hollow stemmed plants have large blooms that are pink, white and purple in color. It is late maturing and will usually be productive into late July. It will tolerate low pH and sandy soils. This heavy reseeder makes a great plot for deer and turkey.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** Sept. – Oct.
- **Rate:** 8 lbs./acre or 3 oz./1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ¼” maximum

**Alfalfa**  
Type: cool season perennial legume

**Uses:** Alfalfa makes an excellent quality forage for deer, turkey and rabbits. High in protein and with tremendous yields on good, well-drained soil, Alfalfa will provide fall, spring and summer food supplies.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** Sept.– Oct. and Mar. – May
- **Rate:** 20 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1,000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½” maximum
Crimson Clover
Type: Cool season reseeding annual legume

Uses: Crimson clover, by far, is the most widely used annual clover for feeding and attracting deer, turkey, rabbits and other game species to food plot areas. It is a widely adapted plant that tolerates different soil types and low pH soils. It is an excellent and dependable re-seeding clover that is early maturing. Crimson works well in mixtures with small grains or later maturing clover such as white and red.

Planting:
Date: Sept. – Oct.
Rate: 20 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1000 sq. ft.
Depth: ¼”

Hairy Vetch
Type: Cool season reseeding annual legume

Uses: Hairy vetch makes an excellent addition to fall planted deer mixtures. Its spring forage production is very palatable to deer and turkeys and it makes an excellent seed crop for quail and turkey.

Planting:
Date: Sept. – Oct.
Rate: 20 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1000 sq. ft.
Depth: ½” maximum

Red Clover
Type: Cool season perennial legume

Uses: Red clover is a winter-hardy legume that is excellent for deer and turkey food plots. It is a highly productive, late maturing clover growing from 18 to 30 inches tall during early to mid summer. It is very high yielding but usually only lasts about two years before needing to be replanted.

Planting:
Date: Sept. – Oct. and Feb. – Apr.
Rate: 15 lbs./acre or 6 oz./1000 sq. ft.
Depth: ¼” maximum

Subterranean Clover
Type: Cool season annual legume

Uses: Subterranean clover is a very low growing, shade tolerant clover that will tolerate acidic soil conditions.

Planting:
Date: Sept. – Oct.
Rate: 20 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1000 sq. ft.
Depth: ¼”
**Wintergrazer 70 Rye**  
*Type: cool season annual grain*

**Uses:** Wintergrazer is well adapted throughout many parts of the U.S. It is excellent in combination with clover as a nurse crop because of its early maturity and ability to maintain its upright growth. It does not mat down and smother the clover that is getting established underneath it. It can reach a height of 4 to 5 feet tall and is very fast to establish, producing deer feed in as little as 14 days in ideal conditions. Wintergrazer rye grain is preferred by deer and is the most cold tolerant of all the cereal grains. Wintergrazer 70 is a rye grain and should not be confused with ryegrass.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** Sept. – Nov.
- **Rate:** 100 lbs./acre or 2½ lbs/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½”

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**White Ladino Clover**  
*Type: cool season perennial legume*

**Uses:** Ladino clovers grow best when planted with small grains such as wheat, oats or rye. They can be overgrazed by deer in the young seedling stage and the grains can help take the early grazing pressure off the clover. Ladino clovers are very high yielding and high quality providing excellent protein for fall, spring and early summer. Ladino clover will generally last for 3 to 5 years as a perennial. Ladino clover makes an excellent food plot for deer and turkey as well as produce insects for quail chicks and turkey poults. Use on clay or loam soils or bottom land for best results.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** North: Aug. 15 – Oct. 1  
  March – May  
  South: Sept. – Dec.
- **Rate:** 8 lbs./acre or 3 oz./1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ¼” maximum

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**Rackmaster Deluxe (Spring/Summer)**  
*Type: warm season annual seed mixture*

**Uses:** Rackmaster spring mixtures are truly the answer to anyone’s spring and summer planting program. Deer need a good high quality food source in the spring and summer months more than any other time of year. Rackmaster will provide the fuel to develop antlers, body size, milk for developing fawns and overall health for the entire deer herd. Soybeans, iron clay cowpeas, buckwheat, sunflower, and sorghum make up the perfect mixture of seed ingredients to create an ideal food source and excellent cover for deer, turkey, dove and quail. High in protein and extremely palatable, Rackmaster summer plots provide deer with proper nutrition throughout the spring and summer months. It is also an ideal plot for late summer planting providing rapid growth and quickly established plots for early season hunting before frost.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** Apr. – June and Aug – Sept. in the South for early fall plots
- **Rate:** 50 lbs./acre or 1½ lbs/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½”-1”

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**WARM SEASON**
Aeschynomene
Type: warm season reseeding annual legume

Uses: Aeschynomene is also known as deer vetch or American joint vetch. Joint vetch is best suited for moist, fertile soils as it is much more tolerant of wet conditions than drought. It is known to have moderate shade tolerance. The plants can reach 3 to 5 feet tall when mature and are very high in protein and quality for deer. Aeschynomene’s attractiveness will persist into the fall months until first frost, making it a favorite of bow hunters.

Planting:
Date: April - June
Rate: 20 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1000 sq.ft.
Depth: ¼”

Alyce Clover
Type: warm season annual legume

Uses: Alyce is a warm season tropical clover that grows upright to heights of 12 to 24 inches with pink flowers when it blooms in late summer or early fall. It is high in protein and high yielding through the hot summer. It is heat and drought tolerant and a favorite forage of deer and turkey. Alyce can be slow to establish so using it in mixtures of sorghum, buckwheat or joint vetch works well.

Planting:
Date: April - June
Rate: 20 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1000 sq.ft.
Depth: ¼” maximum

Benne or Sesame
Type: warm season annual forb

Uses: Benne is a tall growing annual forb that will achieve 4 to 6 feet in height at maturity. After blooming the seed pods will shatter oily seeds in great quantity for all game birds, especially quail and doves. Seed production will occur in about 90 days after emergence.

Planting:
Date: April - June
Rate: 6 lbs./acre or 2 oz./1000 sq.ft.
Depth: ¼”

Bicolor Lespedeza
Type: warm season perennial shrub

Uses: Bicolor lespedeza is a perennial shrub that can grow from 6 to 10 feet high. As a legume, it supplies its own nitrogen. The abundant seed produced is attractive to quail and other game birds and can remain in the soil for long periods without rotting because of its hardseed coat. The shrub makes an excellent food and cover for birds. Many landowners use it for a border or in hedge rows for funneling animals through corridors or creating dense screens so motorists cannot see into fields from the road.

Planting:
Date: April - June
Rate: 15 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1000 sq.ft.
Depth: ½” maximum
Black Sunflower (Peredovik Type)
Type: warm season annual

**Uses:** Black sunflower can grow from 2 to 4 feet high forming small heads full of black seed high in oil content. The seed makes excellent feed for all game birds, especially doves. The plants are highly preferred by deer when they are young and still growing. It takes about 110 days for seed to mature from germination.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - June
- **Rate:** 40 lbs./acre or 1 lb/1000 sq.ft. or 8 - 10 lbs./acre in a row
- **Depth:** ½”

Browntop Millet
Type: warm season annual grass

**Uses:** Browntop is a leafy annual grass that grows from 2-3 feet tall producing heavy seed yields in about 50-60 days after emergence. It is a great plant for quail and doves on upland soils and ducks on flooded lands.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - August
- **Rate:** 40 lbs./acre or 1 lb/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½” maximum

Buckwheat
Type: warm season annual

**Uses:** Buckwheat is extremely early maturing with seed yields as fast as 10-12 weeks after emergence. Well suited to almost any soil type, the plant is attractive to deer as excellent summer forage. The plant will make clusters of small white flowers forming triangular shaped black seeds. Afterwards, the seed is reluctant to shatter, thus remaining on the stalk for long periods providing feed for turkey and other game birds throughout the summer months.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - July
- **Rate:** 50 lbs./acre or 1 ¼ lb/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½”

Chufas
Type: warm season annual sedge

**Uses:** This annual nutsedge will mature in about 100 days, producing underground nuts or tubers that turkey, deer, ducks and hogs cannot resist. Chufa will make an excellent plot by itself or mixes well with other plants. Turkey will visit chufa fields time and time again searching for buried tubers.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - May
- **Rate:** 50 lbs./acre or 1 ¼ lb/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** 1”-2”
**Dove Proso Millet**  
*Type: warm season annual grass*

**Uses:** These plants can reach 4 to 6 feet tall producing an open seed head similar to oats. A unique characteristic is the seed will not mature uniformly. They will start to ripen from the top of the head down, dislodging and dropping to the ground as they mature. The seeds are very shiny, slick and resist mold and mildew making them an excellent plant for doves, quail and ducks. The seed will mature in about 75 to 100 days after emergence.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - July
- **Rate:** 40 lbs./acre or 1 lb/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½” maximum

**Egyptian Wheat**  
*Type: warm season annual grass*

**Uses:** Egyptian wheat is a tall growing (10 ft.) member of the sorghum family that is well adapted to the Southeast. It bears loose seed heads with abundant seed well suited for game birds, especially quail. Seed will mature approximately 110 days after emergence. Egyptian wheat also makes excellent cover for quail.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - June
- **Rate:** 10 lbs./acre or ¼ lb/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½”

**Iron and Clay Peas**  
*Type: warm season annual legume*

**Uses:** Iron and clay cowpeas are perhaps the most popular peas for wildlife enthusiasts planting warm season plots for deer. It is extremely high yielding, high in protein and productive throughout the summer. It is very tolerant to deer pressure once established and has good regrowth potential. It will also produce seed in pods in late summer that make excellent quail and turkey food.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - August
- **Rate:** 60 lbs./acre or 1½ lbs/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½”-1”

**Japanese Millet**  
*Type: warm season annual grass*

**Uses:** Japanese millet is also known as Jap or Duck millet. It is an annual that grows 2 to 4 feet tall. It will tolerate wet and muddy soil conditions while growing and can even be slightly flooded while growing as long as the leaves remain above water. The seed will mature on the stalk in 45-60 days. The plant can be flooded after maturity for duck ponds.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** June - July
- **Rate:** 40 lbs./acre or 1 lbs/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ¼”

**Method:** Drain a beaver pond to expose wet mud flats. Install a water control structure such as a 3-log drain or Clemson leveler (contact a wildlife biologist for advice and diagrams). Broadcast the seed at the recommended rate evenly across the area on top of wet mud. Seed will sink slightly into soft mud and receive enough soil contact to germinate.

**Fertility:**
- **Soil test:** No lime is necessary
- **Fertility:** No fertilizer is necessary.
**Kobe/Korean Lespedeza**  
*Type: warm season annual legume*

**Uses:** These annual legumes are excellent seed producers for quail and other upland game birds. Deer graze it in summer. Korean is earlier maturing than Kobe but Kobe is more adapted to the South. They will reach a height of 2 feet tall, providing cover for quail. The seeds are hard and will lie on the ground for long periods into winter producing a dependable late winter food source.

**Planting:**  
**Date:** April - July  
**Rate:** 30 lbs./acre or ¾ lb/1000 sq.ft.  
**Depth:** ¼”

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**LabLab**  
*Type: warm season annual legume*

**Uses:** This summer bean is extremely high yielding and drought tolerant. Since it is vulnerable to early grazing pressure, plant in big fields or protect with fencing or repellents. Once established, its high protein makes it excellent for deer throughout the summer and fall until a killing frost. LabLab should be planted with a millet, sorghum or corn to provide a stalk for the vines to climb up. This will help increase its productivity.

**Planting:**  
**Date:** April - June  
**Rate:** 10 lbs./acre or ¼ lb/1000 sq.ft.  
**Depth:** ½”

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**Oklahoma Game Bird Peas (Catjang Peas)**  
*Type: warm season annual legume*

**Uses:** This is a late maturing cowpea that holds in the hull better than other varieties. The seeds are relished by quail and other game birds. The plants, similar to other cowpeas, produce abundant foliage that is high protein and excellent for deer with better resistance to heavy grazing pressure than cowpeas.

**Planting:**  
**Date:** April - June  
**Rate:** 40 lbs./acre or 1 lb/1000 sq.ft.  
**Depth:** ½”

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**Partridge Peas**  
*Type: warm season reseeding annual legume*

**Uses:** Partridge peas are slow to establish but are well suited to most any type soil and tolerant of acid conditions. They will produce abundant yellow flowers late in the summer and small black seeds that are excellent feed for quail. The seeds are hard and will stay in the soil or on the ground all winter as feed. They will consistently reseed and thicken up year after year.

**Planting:**  
**Date:** Feb. - April  
**Rate:** 15 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1000 sq.ft.  
**Depth:** ¼”
**Crown Vetch**
*Type: perennial legume*

**Uses:** A perennial legume that is slow to establish but eventually spreads quickly from rhizomes. Well adapted to most soils in the U.S. but not adapted to the Deep South, it will provide a permanent ground cover and good erosion control. It makes good cover for quail and good browse for deer. It will shed seeds through summer for quail and other game birds.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - July
- **Rate:** 15 lbs./acre or ½ lb/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ¼"

**Sesbania**
*Type: annual legume*

**Uses:** Sesbania is a large legume commonly known as swamp peas. It is ideal for duck marshes. It will grow upright on a thick stalk 8 to 12 feet tall with long slender seed pods that shatter when mature, making excellent quail feed. It will make thick cover for quail and will stand up in winter flood conditions for ducks. It will thrive in almost any soil type but prefers moist, fertile conditions. It grows rapidly in hot weather and matures in about 90 to 100 days after emergence. Seeds are highly preferred by quail, turkey and doves.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - June
- **Rate:** 25 lbs./acre or ¾ lb/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½"

**Soybeans**
*Type: warm season annual legume*

**Uses:** Soybeans are very attractive to deer from the onset of emergence. They are so preferred that most small acreage plantings will be killed early by deer grazing pressure. It will not regrow from early browse pressure, hence it needs fencing or repellents in small (< 5 acre) fields. It is ideal for mixing with grain sorghum, peas, alyce clover or other warm season annual legumes. At maturity it will make high quality seed for game birds and deer. Individual plantings of soybeans can be staggered by planting date to provide season long production.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - August
- **Rate:** 60 lbs./acre or 1½ lbs/1000 sq.ft.
- **Depth:** ½"

**Wild Game Food (WGF) Sorghum**
*Type: annual grass*

**Uses:** Wild game food sorghum is an early maturing sorghum reaching mid-bloom at about 40-50 days after emergence. It is bird-resistant which keeps migrating flocks of blackbirds from stripping it in late summer. A mature plant will be 26-30" tall with seed becoming marginally palatable at maturity. As it stands in the weather, it loses tannic acid and becomes more and more palatable through the fall. This sorghum makes excellent seed for all game birds, including quail, turkey, pheasants, doves and ducks. Deer will also feed heavily on the grain in fall and winter.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April - July
- **Rate:** 5 lbs./acre Drilled on 30" rows; 15 lbs./acre broadcast; ½ lb/1000 sq. ft.
- **Depth:** ½"
**WINGMASTER SEED MIXTURES**

**Wingmaster Quail Mixture**
Type: warm season annual mixture

**Uses:** Want more quail? Provide habitat for brood-rearing, nesting, loafing, roosting, and protection from predators and inclement weather and they will come. Food plots that produce open ground at chick level with overhead cover make ideal areas for quail chicks to be effective insect predators. With over 90% of chicks’ diets made up of high protein insects its first few weeks of life, insect producing areas are critical to their survival. In addition, a healthy quail population will need a good supply of seed producing plants to provide a consistent year round food supply. Pennington’s WingMaster Quail Mixture is a combination of seed producing plants that will provide an abundant supply of seed. In addition, quail will benefit from idled or fallowed areas that run along side a high yielding seed producing food plot. Idled or fallowed land is land that is left undisturbed for short periods of time, usually two to three years. These areas are best distributed across your property as edges. Field corners, field edges, field borders, fencerows, tree lines or drainages are all ideal areas for developing an edge effect that quail will benefit from. The greater the edge the better, so develop them with the most edge effect derived from long, narrow, winding configuration. For example, an acre (209’ X 209’) has 836 feet of edge. In contrast, a long, narrow linear acre, 20 feet wide and 2,178 feet long, has 4,356 feet of edge—that’s over three-quarters of a mile. Proper management of these edges will consist of fall or winter disking every two to three years.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April to June
- **Rate:** 40 lbs. covers one acre or 1 lb/1000 sq ft.
- **Depth:** ¼”

**Wingmaster Wild Turkey Mixture**
Type: warm season annual mixture

**Uses:** Like quail, turkeys need good habitat for brood-rearing and feeding areas. WingMaster Wild Turkey seed mixture produces abundant seed and insects to meet these needs. Turkey poults diets, for the first few weeks, consist primarily of high protein insects so areas producing insects are critical to their survival. In addition, a healthy turkey population will need a variety of plant matter to provide seed, leaves, tubers, fruits, forbs and grasses for a consistent year round food supply. Pennington’s WingMaster Wild Turkey Mixture includes millets, grain sorghum, Buckwheat, Chufa, and White Clover which are a combination of plant species meeting those needs in addition to proving excellent habitat, cover, and brood-rearing areas. In a staggered effect, this seed mixture will have plants maturing and dropping seed to the ground from late spring throughout fall and winter. Over a long period of time from about 50 days after germination in late spring and extending into the winter, WingMaster will provide an abundant supply of seed. In addition, turkeys will benefit from. Proper management of these edges will consist of fall or winter disking every three years. This disking should be the beginning of a 3-year vegetative succession of habitat stages. The first year should be disking the edges; the second and third years will allow for 30% to 50% of total openings to be idle and the rest in an establishment year or fallow year will make for the best turkey habitat. For example, having your openings divided up into thirds, will allow for one third to be planted this year, while two thirds lay idle. Taking the oldest idle plots back into food plots every third year will keep your plots rotated, fresh, manageable, and full of insects.

**Planting:**
- **Date:** April to June
- **Rate:** 40 lbs. covers one acre or 1 lb/1000 sq ft.
- **Depth:** ¼”
Uses: The mourning dove is a migratory game bird that has four basic habitat needs: food, cover, water and grit. These habitat needs must be met to produce more local nesting birds and attract migratory birds during the season. With the popularity of dove hunting on the rise, hunting clubs and field managers are seeking ways to compete with nearby fields. Planning, understanding the birds and providing necessary habitat will go a long way toward having a successful hunt. Doves need a water source within one mile of their food source. In addition doves need grit (small bits of gravel and larger grains of sand) in their diets to help grind food in the gizzard. Gravel roads and roadsides are a perfect location for birds to find this grit. Doves are seed eaters with about 99% of the diet made up of seed in late summer and fall. Pennington's WingMaster Dove Mixture is a combination of plants that meet the seed requirements of the mourning dove. Our mixture is a combination of small seeded millet, grain sorghum and sunflower that will provide a plentiful supply of seed. This seed combination will mature in a staggered effect with some plants producing seed in as little as 60 days with others taking 110 days. This allows for food supplies to become available early to attract and hold the resident birds. As the entire mixture matures, plants will drop seed to the ground, providing an abundant supply of seed for the entire season. It is important to plant WingMaster Dove mixtures no later than May 15 so the plants will have time to mature and shatter seed. Latter plantings or time delayed plantings are preferred if late season hunts and additional field manipulation is required.

Site selection of a dove field is often one of the most important field management decisions overlooked. Avoid fields near houses, housing developments, highways, livestock confinement buildings such as poultry houses and large areas of woodlands. Also avoid establishing fields too close to existing ones (a good rule of thumb is five miles apart), if this cannot be avoided then cooperate and coordinate shooting days with adjoining landowners. Open fields with plenty of room (10 acres) are ideal areas for establishing dove fields. Keeping safety in mind, hunter placement should be top on the list when selecting a field. Crowded hunting environments can make for a miserable hunting experience as well as a dangerous one. In addition, consideration of perch trees (leafless trees or thorn trees), power lines, and proximity to water and grit are all important components of good dove fields.

Field manipulation is also important because dove prefer to land in areas where the ground is clean and bare and then walk to the food source. Mowing down strips in your field will open up the ground and scatter seeds in the process. Mowing these strips weekly starting six weeks in advance of hunting season will help hold more birds on your property. Disking old mowed strips is also a good method of further manipulating the field and attracting more birds. By having some plants upright, some mowed down and some disked up you will provide a haven for birds.

Doves are federally regulated migratory birds, and you should take extreme care and pay close attention to federal and state regulations regarding dove field management.

Planting:
Date: April - August
Rate: 40 lbs. covers one acre or 1 lb/1000 sq ft.
Depth: ⅛”

Wingmaster Chufa
Type: warm season annual sedge

Uses: Chufa is a sedge that is one of the most popular foods for wild turkeys. Chufa plants have underground tubers, which are the part of the plant that turkeys eat. One chufas tuber will produce a plant that can grow from 15-75 tubers. Turkeys find the tubers by scratching them from just under the soil surface. The tubers are high in protein and fat, which makes them especially nutritious for wild turkeys. Chufa can make an excellent food source for other wildlife including deer and ducks.

Chufa plants grow well in the southern half of the U.S. from Northern California across to Southern Iowa and Southern Pennsylvania. Chufa plants grow in a variety of soil, but best on well-drained, sandy or loamy soils. Clay soils will also support chufa. If growing on clay soils, lightly turn the soil in the fall to expose tubers. This practice can be done periodically to extend the food supply into winter and early spring. Simply plow several strips twice a month until the entire field has been plowed. Generally chufa grow well anywhere corn is grown. Chufa plants will produce underground tubers in 90 to 110 days after emergence.

Planting:
Date: April - June
Rate: 40 lbs. per acre or 1 lb/1000 sq ft.
Depth: 1”-2”
Wingmaster Duck Mixture
Type: warm season annual mixture

Uses: Many waterfowl species will benefit from habitat improvements like supplemental plantings. These same habitat improvements will also attract more mallard duck, the most popular and most sought after waterfowl species in the U.S. Cover, food and shallow water are the basic habitat requirements needed for good waterfowl management. Ducks are herbivores, characterized as grazers and seed eaters, and have diverse diets of grasses, forbs, seeds, fruits, acorns, cultivated crops and aquatic plants. Food plantings of seed producing plants around the edges and in waterfowl impoundments can provide excellent food and habitat for waterfowl. Pennington's WingMaster Duck Mixture is a combination of seed producing plants that will make an excellent food source for ducks including Japanese millets, Proso millet, Buckwheat, and Grain Sorghum. Planting food along water edges, in the impoundments, or in low areas that will flood during the winter are excellent ways to increase habitat and hold more birds on your property. Pennington's Duck Mixture is tolerant of some flooding, however water should be held off until plants are fully mature or about 80 days after germination. For dabbling ducks or puddle ducks that feed in shallow water, levels should be kept in the range of 6” to 18” inches deep once flooding occurs.

Some practical pond management such as thinning or removing non mast crop trees along the water's edge could help to increase sunlight exposure to the soil thus increasing natural food supplies from seed-producing weed and grass plants. Also carefully controlling water levels in waterfowl impoundments help provide good growth for your supplemental food source or encourage natural food supplies to grow.

Waterfowl are federally regulated migratory birds, and you should take extreme care and pay close attention to federal and state regulations regarding field management.

Planting:
Date: April - August
Rate: 40 lbs. covers one acre or 1 lb/1000 sq. ft.
Depth: ¼”

Wingmaster Wildlife Rice
Type: warm season annual mixture

Uses: Wingmaster Wildlife Rice will make an excellent supplemented planting for any waterfowl species, especially mallard ducks. This versatile food plot seed can be seeded into a prepared seed bed, mud flat or right over the water. It will mature in 75 days with an abundance of seed.

Planting:
Date: June – August
Rate: 40 lbs. per acre or 1 lb/1000 sq. ft. Use higher seedling rates if direct seeding into water (up to 100 lbs.).
Depth: ½ -1”
Method: For water seeding, presoak seeds in a large container. Skim off floating seeds. After 24-36 hours drain and place seed in a wet sack (burlap or pillow case will work fine), for the next 24 hours turning the sack occasionally and keeping it moist in a shady warm area. Seed is now ready to water broadcast after 24 hours. Seed can also be broadcast or conventionally drilled into a firm seedbed, no till drill and into a killed sod or broadcast onto mudflats. Flood irrigate to control weeds.
SUCCESSFUL WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS

1. Understanding basic wildlife needs when developing your property will help you get started and lead to much greater success. Making sure you meet the basic needs of wildlife is essential to developing a true wildlife refuge that will make your property a real showplace and something you can be proud of. Food, water, shelter and a place to raise young are the basic necessities needed by wildlife to survive and thrive on your property.

2. The next step to successful food plots is knowing and understanding your objective. Land managers develop food plots on their property for many different reasons. Determining your main goals and objectives up front will help you establish the right kind of plot. Before you begin, ask yourself these questions: Is your food plot to facilitate the harvest of game, to develop a wildlife viewing area, to improve management, to increase carrying capacity, or a combination of these goals? Your goals and objectives will help you determine the different sites, planting materials, size and shape of the plot and plot management techniques you use in establishing a successful wildlife food plot on your property.

3. After determining the goals and objectives for developing food plots, the next step is site selection. The location you choose is very important to the success of your plot. If your goal is to establish a plot only for harvest, you will want to locate it within clear view and close proximity to your stand. On the other hand, if you are developing a plot to feed deer to improve antler size, promote milk production in does, increase body size and promote overall herd health, you will want to select a site that is in an isolated area. A secluded, undisturbed area will promote greater use of the plot allowing wildlife to come and go as they feed without fear. Many areas throughout a farm will make ideal sites to establish a food plot. These areas would include woodland openings, right-of-ways, firebreaks, logging roads, log decks, interior roads, thinned pines, field corners, etc. Just keep in mind that all plots need at least 50% sunlight to be productive. In addition, soil type and weather will help to determine which crops will grow best. Food plots are very attractive to wildlife, so careful selection is important. Never locate a plot near a roadside or in plain view of a road or near property lines.

4. The size and shape of your food plots can make a difference. The size of the plots or overall acres to be planted can be difficult to determine. One rule of thumb is to plant at least 2 to 5 acres for every 100 acres of habitat. You should start off on the lighter side of the percentage and work to build more plots as deer utilization increases. Depending on natural habitat, deer density and many other factors, you will need to increase the total number of acres you plant over time to maintain a reasonable amount of growth within each plot. Once again, it is important to understand your goals and objectives because they will play a major role in determining the size and shape of your plots. For example, if you are strictly a bow hunter looking to establish a harvest plot, you will want to locate your plot close to a good stand location with the outermost edge of the planting still in bow range. A number of factors will play a role in determining the size and shape of your food plots. The factors include, but are not limited to, overall number of plots you will have, total acres you want to plant, distance between plots, game species you want to attract, lay of the land (slope, direction to the sun, lowland or upland). Even the plants you want to grow can determine the size and shape of your food plots. How the food plot will affect the surrounding landscape will also be a consideration. For example, many game species benefit from edge created alongside a food plot. Creating an edge effect will give wildlife more diverse habitat, cover, more diverse food supplies and make them feel more secure. A long narrow food plot with a bend or two would be the most preferred shape for creating the most edge effect. In addition, leaving a natural grass/weed/vine habitat along the edge of the plot or tree line is great for attracting and increasing insects for turkey and quail chicks. Edge areas should be disked every third year to keep them from getting too overgrown. Disking edge areas: Divide edge areas into thirds, so you only disk one third of the areas each year. Disk across these areas multiple times to kill any tough weeds that have established over the past two years. Smooth the surface so that the soil is easy for quail and turkey chicks to pass through. Then let nature take its course. Grass and weeds will soon fill in, creating cover, an insect haven and additional natural food supplies.

5. Once you have selected a site or sites to grow your food plots the next step is soil testing. Food plots are crops and understanding the soil, its fertility requirements and ability to grow different plants is essential for success. Good soil fertility can mean the difference in how much food per acre you can grow, how well your plants will compete with weeds, the survivability of perennials, simple nutrient uptake and many other important factors. One of those other factors is pH. Most plots require a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.0. Many land managers overlook soil testing and never realize that many of the problems they encounter come from this oversight. Do not underestimate the importance of soil fertility and pH. For example, a soil pH of 5.0 will cause about 50% of all the fertilizer you apply not to be utilized by the plants you are growing. In dollar value, this means that fifty cents of every dollar spent on fertilizer is wasted. You are encouraged to test your soil and keep the pH around 6.5. It can make the difference in your success or lack thereof. In addition, a good, well-balanced,
complete fertilizer applied at ideal times is essential. Pennington Wildlife Food Plot Fertilizer 8-12-12 at a rate of 400 lbs./acre or 10 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. may be all the fertilizer your plots need to be lush and healthy. This fertilizer is specially formulated for wildlife food plots as well as native and natural vegetation. It is made up of slow release nitrogen that will last for months, plus it has all the major and minor nutrients your plants will need, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, iron, zinc, boron and more. In addition, it contains dolomitic palletized limestone as the filler to aid in neutralizing acidic woodland soils. This complete fertilizer is made of 100% usable ingredients, so you are not buying and hauling heavy fillers that take up space, add weight and do nothing to help your plot grow.

9. Understanding how to manage your food plot is also a key component to its success or failure. Maintaining a good soil fertility program, keeping the plot weed free and scouting for potential insect or other pest problems can aid in extending the life of any food plot, increasing the overall yield of the plot and achieving full satisfaction for you.

10. Food plots are supplemental plantings, so knowing when wildlife will utilize these plots will help you enjoy them even more. There are two major periods each year when wildlife needs these plots the most: late summer and late winter stress periods. A good food plot will be growing strong through the fall and late winter to supply wildlife forage during harsh winter conditions. Likewise, the same is needed through the spring and summer months to supply wildlife during summer droughts and the late summer stress period. Managers should expect utilization to be at its peak during these two most stressful times of the year. These times are also good times to evaluate your plots to determine if there is enough food on the table, or if more needs to be planted in subsequent years to better meet the needs of wildlife through these stressful periods. Attractiveness of the forage also attributes to utilization. Simply put, certain plants are more preferred than others and certain plants are preferred during different times of the year. During the 200-day antler development cycle, bucks need a high protein food source, while during the fall, they need foods high in carbohydrates to store fat. Developing plots with diversified plants is an easy way to cover all your bases. Mixtures of seed that have been properly formulated are easy to obtain to achieve this diversity.

11. At the end of the day every land manager wants to evaluate and judge the plot on how well it was utilized by wildlife. This can be done simply by making an exclusion cage to keep deer, turkey, rabbits and all other game out of a given area. An exclusion cage can be made of heavy gauge wire and staked to the ground so it will not move. This will allow the same amount of sunlight, rain and fertilizer on the area, but will eliminate any browse pressure from that specific spot. In time you should see the enclosed area grow and mature inside the cage while the productive plot around it will be
eaten down, especially during the stressful months of the year. An exclusion cage can also tell you a lot about your plot. Many managers will plant a plot and not return for several weeks and in some cases, the return can be a disappointing one. When the manager sees the area and it is bare ground or full of grassy weeds, they tend to assume the plot did not germinate, or perhaps germinated, but did not survive. An exclusion cage is invaluable because it gives you a protected area so you can evaluate exactly what has happened in your absence. If the seed did not germinate, then both inside the cage and outside should look the same. But if plants are growing strong inside the cage, but don’t appear to be growing outside the cage or you only see weeds outside the cage, you will know that wildlife moved in and ate all the forage production. And it should tell you to plant more because wildlife in this area does not have enough to eat.

12. Natural and native vegetation is important wildlife food. As you establish supplemental food plots, be sure to maintain native and natural fruit and nut trees, shrubs, hedges, vines and other plant materials already present so that the overall habitat is more appealing to the species of wildlife you are managing. Properly identifying, fertilizing and caring for these plants is key to ensuring they survive on your property. Pennington’s Wildlife Food Plot Fertilizer has a complete fertilization label for these plants. Refer to the back of the bag for complete details.

13. Mineral licks can also be an important part of an overall food plot program. A good mineral lick can provide essential minerals not provided by the food plot or natural vegetation. Rackmaster Deer Mineral is a complete all natural, loose mineral supplement that can help to achieve overall herd health. This 2:1 ratio of calcium to phosphorus plus sodium chloride can be applied straight onto the ground or placed on a stump or log. It is easy to use and blends in well with its surroundings. It is utilized most during the spring, summer and early fall months. The loose mineral product makes it easy to recharge licks and keep plenty of minerals available as a free choice supplement.

14. The final step in creating successful food plots is keeping records. Good record keeping will help you in a number of ways. The information should be logged into some form of diary or record book and should include seed planted, time of year planted, rate and depth of planting, growth and observations, fertilizer and lime used along with rate and date of application, animals observed or harvested and any other information you choose to jot down for future reference. It will be a valuable reference for you at a later date.

### Calculating Food Plot Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formula</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| \[
\text{Acres} = \frac{\text{length (L)} \times \text{width (W)}}{43,560}
\] | | \[
W = 300 \text{ feet} \\
L = 1,742 \text{ feet}
\]
| \[
\text{Acres} = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \times (\text{length} \times \text{width})}{43,560}
\] | | \[
\frac{1}{2}(1,742 \times 300) = 5.99 \text{ acres}
\]
| \[
\text{Acres} = \frac{\pi \times r^2}{43,560}
\] | | \[
\frac{3.14 \times 340^2}{43,560} = 8.33 \text{ acres}
\]

\[r = 340 \text{ feet}\]
“Food Plot Solutions from the People who know Seed”™