

PLANT POGUE

BE PREPARED



Food Plot Guide

WHY FOOD PLOTS?

The Role of Food Plots in Wildlife Management:

Did you know a whitetail will consume up to 80% of their diet from food plots? In fact, food plots play a significant role in animal health and cultivating larger bucks, even in small tracts.

Native vegetation and supplemental feeding programs just don't have the same impact as a well prepared food plot.

On average, native vegetation will produce about 200 to 300 pounds of deer food each year, with approximately 6% to 12% protein. However, if deer consumed that much protein you would see a browse line about 6 feet high and a destroyed habitat. Deer only use about 100 pounds per acre without destroying the area. An average adult deer will consume 6 pounds of feed per day.

A quick glance at this math concludes:

365 days per year x 6 pounds = 2,190 pounds of feed per year.

Therefore, one deer can be supported on roughly 22 acres. However, body size, health and antler size are going to be well under their potential because of the poor average protein content of the native vegetation. **Biologists agree deer need about 16% protein to express their potential, especially during fawn rearing and antler growth.**

There are some that would argue that just dumping "deer corn" or protein pellets out makes everything alright. Corn, only has approximately 8% protein, so native vegetation is much better than corn. The carbohydrates corn produces does have a place in a diet, but when feeding pellets at around 20% protein, you still need to consider predation, disease transmission, legality, aesthetics, the amount consumed by non-target animals and the cost.

No matter what you feed or how you feed it, deer will only consume 20% to 25% of their diet from supplemental feed. So you

are not significantly increasing your property's carrying capacity and you are not making a big impact on their nutritional intake either. You are still well below the 16% biologists say is necessary.

There is no better way to supply the amount or the quality of food for the cost, then by planting food plots. Food plots decrease the average home range size for each animal and in doing so food plots will significantly increase your property's carrying capacity. Food plots are going to supply above the necessary 16% protein so your deer will have a chance to express their true health and antler growing potential.

Remember we said that they will only consume 20% to 25% of their diet in supplemental feed? It is shown deer will consume approximately 75% to 80% of their diet in food plot crops. It is probably for two reasons, one, because it is more like browsing to them. Deer are naturally browsers. It is unnatural for them to stand at a feeder. Two, because of the quality of the forage. Food plots produce forage that is much more palatable and digestible than corn, protein pellets or native vegetation.

The availability of quality summer forage may be the difference between just surviving and being able to expressing their true genetic potential. Think about the high protein milk that mother doe needs during the spring and summer. Think about the fact that some bucks may lose 30% of their body weight during the rut. The spring and summer is when their playing catch-up. If they don't have to play catch-up then they can express their true antler growing capability.

Feeding could be the solution, regardless of what you feed or how you feed it even if you do everything perfect, a whitetail will consume no more than 25% of their diet from the supplemental feed.



PROTEIN BY THE NUMBERS

NATURAL VEGETATION
6% - 12%

PROTEIN PELLETS
8%

FOOD PLOTS
16%+

A deer's diet needs to be 16% OR HIGHER OF PROTEIN to maximize growth potential.

SPRING BLENDS

Buck Buffet™ Spring Wildlife Blend

A combination of legumes and forages, this blend provides high protein and carbohydrate food source that is essential for developing body mass and antler size. Varieties in this seed blend have been proven throughout the Southern and Midwestern States.

This blend is widely adopted throughout the South & Midwest Regions of the United States.

BENEFITS: Very economical, excellent forage production, palatability, drought tolerance and easy establishment

COMPONENTS: mixed cowpeas, soybeans, lablab and Cream grain Sorghum. All legumes in the mix are pre-inoculated and coated with a protective layer to ensure survival of the inoculums. (This process allows the legumes to “fix” or gather the nitrogen they need to grow without applying nitrogen fertilizer, thus saving you money)

Planting Dates	Soil Type	Drought Tolerance	Cold Tolerance
March-June	Wide Range	Good	Fair
Min. Rainfall Requirements	Planting (Row)	Planting (Broadcast)	Planting Depths
18"	15 lbs/acre	20 lbs/acre	1-1 1/2"

Bird Buffet™ Annual Wildlife Blend

Bird Buffet™ blend provides more seed production and drought tolerance, over a longer time period than any single variety. Bird Buffet™ Spring Wildlife Blend is a combination of several adapted annual grasses. Each variety is nutritious and is a favorite food source of birds and excellent grass cover for nesting.

BENEFITS: Very economical, excellent seed production, superior cover and nesting, drought tolerance and easy establishment

COMPONENTS: Browntop millet, Dove Proso millet, German foxtail millet, Sorghum, Egyptian wheat, and Sesame

Planting Dates	Soil Type	Drought Tolerance	Cold Tolerance
March-June	Wide Range	Good	Good
Min. Rainfall Requirements	Planting (Row)	Planting (Broadcast)	Planting Depths
15"	8-10 lbs/acre	10-12 lbs/acre	1/4-1/2"

BeeWild™ Perennial Bundleflower Blend

Pogue Agri Partners in conjunction with the TAES-Beeville, TX has released several new and exciting Native bundleflower varieties. Unlike Illinois Bundleflower, this bundleflower blend is very adapted to South and Central Texas and Mexico. Known for outstanding forage quality, this certified seed and pre – inoculated native perennial forb, provides an excellent food source and cover for deer, dove, quail, turkey and other wildlife populations. With improved forage and seed production as well as excellent drought resistance, the new bundleflower varieties will have a great impact in the southwest part of the United States and Mexico. These varieties will be a favorite for all wildlife managers and conservationist.

BlendBeeWild™ bundleflower prefers heavy to medium texture soils, that have neutral to very alkaline levels. BeeWild™ must not be planted deeper than 1/4 inch. For this reason, it is recommended that it be broadcast seeded on a prepared seedbed, then dragged. BeeWild™ has also successfully been no-till drilled into perennial grass which is first sprayed with Roundup, then planted. As with all legumes, we recommend inoculating the seed before planting.

Planting Dates	Soil Type	Soil pH	Drought Tolerance	Cold Tolerance
March-June	Wide Range	6.0 or above	Good	N/A
Min. Rainfall Requirements	Planting (Row)	Planting (Broadcast)	Planting Depths	
12"	3-4 PLS lbs/acre	4-6 lbs/acre	1/4" or less	

Optimal Planting Times

Jan Feb **MARCH** **APRIL** **MAY** **JUNE** **JULY** Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

FALL BLENDS

Buck Buffet™ (Fall) Cereal Wildlife Blend

BUCK BUFFET™ CEREAL BLEND is a mixture of small grains (Wheat, Oats, Triticale) with the addition of high quality legumes (winterpeas). BUCK BUFFET™ CEREAL BLEND is widely adapted throughout the American Southwest. This blend will provide early and late forage production with high quality and exceptional palatability. This blend is easy to plant and has always been a favorite of wildlife producers.

BENEFITS: Very economical, excellent forage production, 18-20% crude protein, widely adapted, highly palatable, drought tolerance and easy establishment

COMPONENTS: Oats, Triticale, Wheat and Winterpeas

Planting Dates	Soil Type	Drought Tolerance	Cold Tolerance
Sept.-Dec.	Wide Range	Good	Good
Min. Rainfall Requirements	Planting (Row)	Planting (Broadcast)	Planting Depths
16"	40-50 lbs/acre	65 lbs/acre	1 - 1 1/2"

Buck Buffet™ (Fall) Legume Wildlife Blend

BUCK BUFFET™ LEGUME BLEND is a mixture of highly productive legumes widely adapted to the Southwest. These legumes have proven their ability to perform under diverse conditions.

With excellent palatability and early and late growth this blend of legumes and clovers will provide a highly palatable and nutritious diet.

BUCK BUFFET™ LEGUME BLEND will re-seed for many years to come. This blend is a must for all wildlife managers.

BENEFITS: Very economical, excellent forage production, 20-30% crude protein, widely adapted, highly palatable, drought tolerance, outstanding reseeding capacity, and increased stand longevity

COMPONENTS: Armadillo & Devine Burr Medics, Crimson Clover, Hubam Clover, Arrowleaf Clover, Alfalfa and Turnips.

Planting Dates	Soil Type	Drought Tolerance	Cold Tolerance
Sept.-Dec.	Loam-Clay	Good	Fair
Min. Rainfall Requirements	Planting (Row)	Planting (Broadcast)	Planting Depths
16"	8 lbs/acre	10-12 lbs/acre	surface to 1/4"

Buck Buffet™ (Fall) Triple Pea Blend

The Buck Buffet Fall Triple Pea Blend is a blend of Secada, Austrian, and Whistler Winter Peas. The Secada peas provide quick early growth while the Whistler peas are a good intermediate forage producing pea. The Austrians then give you the season long production lasting into the early spring.

These fall plots are designed for attraction and nutrition. These are typically planted late, late, September through early November. They help deer during the rut to give bucks the added carbohydrates for energy along with the high protein to pick them up after the rut. This also benefits the does pretty much in the same manner. The rut is the most rigorous time of the year for the bucks and does alike. Many people don't realize that you "grow" your antlers in the fall.

BENEFITS: Crude protein values will reach the mid to upper 20% range, packaged in 25 lb. bags that will plant 1 acre, pre-Inoculated and coated

COMPONENTS: Secada, Austrian and Whistler Winter Peas

Planting Dates	Soil Type	Soil pH	Drought Tolerance	Cold Tolerance
Sept.-Dec.	Wide Range	5.5-7.5	Fair	Good
Min. Rainfall Requirements	Planting (Row)	Planting (Broadcast)	Planting Depths	
20"	15-25 lbs/acre	25-35 lbs/acre	1-1 1/2"	

Optimal Planting Times

Jan Feb March April May June July Aug **SEPT** **OCT** **NOV** Dec