Wildlife Grain and Cover Crops

**Buckwheat**

*Buckwheat* is a popular all-around warm season annual that has many uses as a food plot crop with an abundance of seeds that appeal to a large number of the wildlife. Buckwheat grows well in almost any soil and is usually planted alone, produces clusters of small white flowers forming triangular shaped black seeds that shatter easily giving access for stalk feeding for smaller birds. Provides good ground cover and the stalks will remain after the seed shatters out thus providing additional cover for smaller wildlife. A great cover crop for enhancing soil, excellent summer food plot forage that is extremely early maturing with seed yields as fast as 7-10 weeks after emergence.

*Soil Types:* Wide variety of soils  
*Seeding Rate:* 40-50 lbs. per acre  
*Planting Depth:* 1-2 inch  
*Planting Date:* April-Sept

**Buck Forage Oats**

*Buck Forage Oats* is a winter hearty oat, a great fall and winter food source for deer and other wildlife. Buck Forage Oats are extremely winter hardy, a drought resistant oat designed to provide more tender growth for a longer interval of time. Buck Forage Oats is an excellent product that has dual uses both as a cover crop and as a fall forage. Planting Buck Forage Oats in August will provide tender forage, providing a food source for deer and turkey into the late fall season.

*Soil Types:* Widely adapted, fertile  
*Seeding Rate:* 100-125 lbs. per acre  
*Planting Depth:* 1-2 inch  
*Planting Date:* Spring and Fall

**Diakon Tillage Radish**

*Diakon Tillage Radish* produces more root mass than oil seed radish. This large root system will pull nitrogen and nutrients deep within the soil and bring them back to the surface. Establish very quickly, providing good ground cover preventing erosion. Radish cover crop captures 150 to 200 pounds of nitrogen per acre before winter killing. Upon decomposition, the nitrogen becomes available to the next crops and the roots leave large holes in the ground that improve water infiltration and soil aeration leaving a thin film of residue covering the soil. Used as a cover crop to mine nitrogen and other nutrients in your soils. A good weed suppression, winter kills with low temperatures.

*Soil Types:* Wide variety well-drained  
*Seeding Rate:* 10-12 lbs. per acre  
*Planting Depth:* ¼-½ inch  
*Planting Date:* May-August

**Egyptian Wheat**

*Egyptian Wheat* is a member of the sorghum family and produces long, slender stalks that reach 7 to 10 feet in height with large seed heads. Long relatively narrow plots are preferable when used as a food plot barrier. Its tall growth structure provides protective cover where wildlife can feed while remaining safe from detection. Plots must be replanted each year, although some seeds from the last growing season may sprout the following year. Egyptian wheat matures late providing additional food and cover for wildlife. Plant after danger of frost has passed, best on fertile well-drained sites receiving full or lightly filtered sunlight, grows poorly in excessively drained sandy soils.

*Soil Types:* Wide variety well-drained  
*Seeding Rate:* 8-10 lbs. per acre  
*Planting Depth:* 1 inch  
*Planting Date:* May-June
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Everleaf 126 Oats

*EverLeaf 126* is a true forage oat with dark green foliage, an erect growth habit with leaves that actually extend above the canopy at heading. *EverLeaf 126* is medium to tall in height, a delayed heading oat with much of its forage mass and quality coming from extended maturity. Performance is best when good fertility and moisture are available. Dry land production should be limited to heavier soils with adequate rainfall. Used as a nurse crop for newly seeded plots, the delayed heading feature allows newly planted stands to become more uniformly established before first mowing. Denser canopy results with a better leaf to stem ration, thus maintaining better quality.

**Soil Types:** Widely adapted, fertile  
**Seeding Rate:** 60-80 lbs. per acre  
**Planting Depth:** 1-2 inch  
**Planting Date:** Spring and Fall

Grain Rye

*Grain Rye* is the most winter hardy of all cereal grains, tolerating temperatures as low as 30°F once it is well established. It will germinate and grow at temperatures as low as 33°F. An excellent winter cover crop since it rapidly produces a ground cover that holds soil in place against the forces of wind and water. The roots are deep and quite extensive with a positive effect on soil as a resource to prevent compaction in annually tilled fields. Grain rye can reach a height of 4 to 5 feet tall and is very fast to establish and may produce deer feed in as little as fourteen days in ideal conditions. Preferred by deer, turkey, and rabbits. Optimum soil pH is 5.0 - 7.0, but will tolerate lower pH.

**Soil Types:** Wide variety well-drained  
**Seeding Rate:** 90-125 lbs. per acre  
**Planting Depth:** 1-2 inch  
**Planting Date:** Aug.-Sept.

Spring Forage Peas

*Spring Forage Peas* are an excellent choice to benefit a mix or planted as a stand alone crop for wildlife food plots. An exciting new variety of self-climbing forage peas that offers a leafy highly palatable forage with high dry matter yields. Plant in the early spring for a food source that is available for energy and protein needs for developing antlers and improving doe lactation. Planted in the early fall, especially with oats or winter wheat, it will create a high palatable forage that is available until a hard freeze. *Spring Forage Peas* have poor frost tolerance. Will grow in a wide variety of soils and will work well under a minimum tillage situation.

**Soil Types:** Wide variety well-drained  
**Seeding Rate:** 25-35 lbs. per acre  
**Planting Depth:** ¾-1 inch  
**Planting Date:** Spring, Fall

Winter Forage Peas

*Winter Forage Peas* are highly favored by whitetail deer and will make a great food plot or addition to a plot seed mixture planted in the fall to attract deer and wildlife. These fast growing peas will attract deer to a plot soon after germination making them a favorite for bow hunting. *Winter Forage Peas* are a vine-like, cool season annual legume with stems growing two to four feet long, producing nitrogen in the soil with their root nodules. Peas are a great soil rebuilder on a rotational basis as a green manure crop. High cold tolerance, may not tolerate extreme temperature fluctuations or severe winters when the small pea plants are exposed to long periods of sub-zero weather.

**Soil Types:** Clay loam, well-drained  
**Seeding Rate:** 40-50 lbs. per acre  
**Planting Depth:** ¾-1 inch  
**Planting Date:** Sept-Oct.