

Food Plot Guide



Roger Hill © 2009

Signature Series
Food and Cover Mixes

GRAIN FOOD PLOT MIXES	COMPONENTS	DESCRIPTION (ALL MIXES ARE ENHANCED WITH MICRONUTRIENT COATINGS)
 <p>BLIZZARD BUSTER</p>	<p>Mixture of five grain and four tall forage sorghums. Concep-treated for improved weed control.</p>	<p>Blizzard Buster is the 800-pound gorilla of winter food and cover mixes. This grain and forage sorghum blend provides maximum shelter and food for game birds in tough winter weather, especially when established in large plots. Planting near existing winter cover will enhance the character of that habitat, and improve bird survival. A 25 lb bag plants up to 4-5 acres. Establish with row planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders in well drained areas when soils warm to 60 degrees. ----- #791010001</p>
 <p>COVEY RISE</p>	<p>Blend of five intermediate grain sorghums adaptable to many areas. Concep-treated for improved weed control.</p>	<p>Covey Rise is a mix of 3 to 5 foot heavy grain-bearing sorghums with bright fall colors, super food value & great habitat structure! It creates great hunting habitat, and pheasants and quail love it. Though Covey Rise is a bit less attractive to the big game that often clean out food plots, deer and turkeys happily dine on Covey Rise when conditions get tough. A 25 lb bag will plant up to 4-5 acres. Establish with row planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders in well drained areas when soils warm to 60 degrees. ----- #791020001</p>
 <p>EARLY LONGTAIL MILO</p>	<p>Early maturing grain sorghum with a wide area of adaptation. Concep-treated for improved weed control.</p>	<p>Short growing seasons are no longer a barrier to good food production for wildlife. Early Longtail Milo is a maturity grain sorghum that provides a heavy seed crop in as little as 85 days in normal growing conditions. It makes for great hunting habitat that affords maximum visibility of your bird dogs while working cover. A 25 lb bag plants up to 4-5 acres. Establish with row planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders in well drained areas when soils warm to 60 degrees. ----- #791030001</p>
 <p>CANE MADNESS</p>	<p>Eight strong stemmed forage sorghums with high grain production. Concep-treated for improved weed control.</p>	<p>Cane Madness is a berserk mix of heavy seeded tall cane sorghums for birds, and act as a covering screen for your deer! This blend provides what birds need most — cover that beats winter, and high energy food. Cane Madness also creates a dense screen for big bucks that need protection from spying eyes. A 25 lb bag plants up to 4-5 acres. Establish with row planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders in well drained areas when soils warm to 60 degrees. ----- #791130001</p>
 <p>"DOVE KANDY" SUNFLOWERS</p>	<p>Diverse sunflower mixture with multiple maturity ranges and heights.</p>	<p>Sunflowers rank first among the favorite foods of wildlife! Dove Kandy Sunflowers will drive your doves, game birds, and songbirds wild! This blend of small, black-seeded, high oil varieties are chock-full of energy -- just the ticket to draw doves into early fall shooting fields. A 25 lb bag plants up to 4-5 acres via row planters, or broadcast seeders. Seed Dove Kandy, as a stand alone plot or salt into your other food plots to add diversity. ----- #791050001</p>
 <p>WHITE LIGHTNING</p>	<p>Five distinct grain sorghums designed to be attractive to deer. Concep-treated for improved weed control.</p>	<p>White Lightning's mild white and cream sorghums create a tasty treat that will please both your birds and monster bucks. A 25 lb bag plants up to 4-5 acres. Establish with row planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders in well drained areas when soils warm to 60 degrees. ----- #791120001</p>

GRAIN FOOD PLOT MIXES CONTINUED	COMPONENTS	DESCRIPTION (ALL MIXES ARE ENHANCED WITH MICRONUTRIENT COATINGS)
 <p>WINTER SHIELD</p>	<p>Four distinct grain sorghums, six forage sorghums and two millets. NOT Concep-treated.</p>	<p>Winter Shield (AKA Nebraska Mix) is loaded with high-yielding forage and grain sorghums, and millets to provide the critical energy needed to pull your birds through the toughest winters. It creates among the best winter cover and food available for pheasants and quail. It will increase your birds' survival prospects, while providing a haven for other wildlife. A 25 lb bag plants up to 4-5 acres. Establish with row planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders in well drained areas when soils warm to 60 degrees.</p> <p>----- #791040001</p>
 <p>WINTER SURVIVAL</p>	<p>Corn, grain sorghums, forage sorghums, buckwheat and sunflowers.</p>	<p>Winter Survival creates excellent cover and food for wildlife where winters are tough. A blend of broadleaf and grass-like plants combine 5 of upland wildlife's favorite foods -- it is heavy on high energy corn, rounded out with sorghums, sunflowers, and buckwheat. Extremely attractive to game birds, deer, turkeys, songbirds and other wildlife. This mix is best broadcast onto a prepared, well fertilized seedbed, then harrowed in. A 25 lb bag plants 2 acres of fabulous food plot.</p> <p>----- #791060001</p>
 <p>WESTERN FOOD & COVER MIX</p>	<p>Sunflowers, forage and grain sorghums, sudan grass, sweet clover and millets.</p>	<p>Western Mix is designed for drier climates that uses short maturity varieties, but it can also create a two year cover plot. This exclusive blend of sunflowers, forage and grain sorghums, sudan grass, sweet clover and millets is best planted with a broadcast seeder. A blend of grasslike and broadleaf plants, a 25 lb bag will produce 3 to 4 acres of winter cover, and a very effective food plot. And in the second year, it becomes great brood-rearing cover. ----- #791080001</p>
 <p>DOVE & QUAIL MIX</p>	<p>Sunflowers, grain sorghums, forage sorghums and millet.</p>	<p>Dove and Quail Mix is for more than just these two great game birds—this is a diverse food plot blend of broadleaf and grass-like plants. This combination of sunflowers, sorghums and millets provide a great food source for doves, and also provide food and cover for quail, pheasants, songbirds and other wildlife. A 25 lb bag will produce 3 to 4 acres of great winter cover. Idle this plot in the second year and it becomes a haven for broods with volunteer annuals that attract bugs. ----- #791090001</p>
 <p>ROOSTER BOOSTER</p>	<p>Grain sorghums, corn, buckwheat and millets.</p>	<p>Rooster Booster creates diverse feeding habitat for deer, turkeys, pheasants, quail and other wildlife. It will normally outlast corn-only food plots. This early maturing mix is heavy on sorghums, with plenty of corn, buckwheat and german millet. Wide range of components insures heavy wildlife use through the hunting season and winter. Broadcast onto a prepared, well fertilized seedbed and harrow in. A 28 lb bag plants 3 acres. ----- #791070001</p>
 <p>QUICK FOOD & COVER</p>	<p>Includes hybrid pearl, proso, Japanese and German brown millets.</p>	<p>Quick Food is a fast growing, 4 millet blend that creates lush food and early season cover. Primarily a small-seed food source, the stiffer-stemmed proso and pearl millets provide good structure, but this is not an effective winter cover. Plant by itself or salt into other food plots for diversity. A 15 lb bag will plant 1 acre. Drill, or broadcast and work into the soil.</p> <p>----- #791160015</p>

GREEN BROWSE FOOD PLOT MIXES	COMPONENTS	DESCRIPTION (ALL MIXES ARE ENHANCED WITH MICRONUTRIENT COATINGS AND INNOCULANTS)
 <p>CLOVER & MORE</p>	<p>Alsike, arrowleaf, berseem, crimson, ladino and red clovers, with alfalfa and rapeseed.</p>	<p>Bird & Buck Clover & More is a unique blend of high quality, long lasting clovers, rapeseed and alfalfa. It produces superior deer and turkey browse, and great brood habitat for gamebird chicks. Deer find this high protein blend of legumes irresistible! For double duty, use it in your spring firebreaks. Clover & More can be drilled or broadcast seeded in the very early spring or in the fall (1 bag/acre) for best results.</p> <p>----- #795110001</p>
 <p>WHITETAIL & GAMEBIRD</p>	<p>Alfalfa and rapeseed with alsike, arrowleaf, berseem, crimson, ladino & red clovers, partridge pea, ryegrass, bluegrass, switchgrass, timothy & millet.</p>	<p>Whitetail & Gamebird was designed by our biologists to produce superior browse for deer and turkeys. It also benefits nesting and brood rearing pheasants and quail by providing a bug-rich habitat. Sold in 1 and 3 acre bags. Plant in spring with a drill or broadcast seeder.</p> <p>8 Lbs Bag ----- #795090001 25 Lbs Bag ----- #795090003</p>
 <p>DEER KANDY GREEN BROWSE</p>	<p>All legume mixture of alfalfa, alsike, ladino, and medium red clovers with partridge pea.</p>	<p>Deer Kandy is an irresistible green browse mix for deer & turkeys that also creates an insect haven for gamebirds. This all legume blend includes superior varieties that make this a very durable and long lasting browse habitat. Plant in early spring, or in late summer/fall for best results. Mow in mid to late summer to allow re-growth for fall, and to maintain a long lasting stand!</p> <p>----- #795130001</p>
 <p>WHITETAIL FORAGE BRASSICA</p>	<p>Prescription formula of hybrid rapeseed, kale, three forage turnips and canola.</p>	<p>Whitetail Forage Brassica is specially designed to produce superior browse that deer and turkeys find irresistible. The high sugar content in the mature leaves attracts and keeps deer where you want them. This mix grows fast, reaching up to 24 inches just 45 days after planting, and browsed leaves are quickly replaced. Add this fall forage mix to your food plot program to boost your chances of taking a nice buck this fall. Drill or broadcast in in late summer or early fall. Sold in 1 acre bags.</p> <p>----- #795140001</p>
 <p>TRIPLE TREAT BRASSICA</p>	<p>Deer forage turnips, forage radishes and food-grade turnips.</p>	<p>Triple Treat combines both forage and food grade turnips, with big-leafed forage radishes. It creates the luxuriant leafy browse and hefty tubers that will pull in those big bucks and keep them close to home. This also provides a bug substrate for hungry broods. Sold in 1 acre bags. Drill or broadcast and work into the soil in late summer or early fall.</p> <p>----- #791150006</p>
 <p>CHICK MAGNET</p>	<p>Pasja, Sweet Clover, Buckwheat, Cool Season Peas, Sunflowers, Cowpeas, grain sorghum, white mustard.</p>	<p>Feed your Chicks! What do they need? Insects -- it's what's for dinner their first 6 weeks of life. What do insects like? A succulent vegetation substrate, which is what this mix delivers. Chick Magnet broadleaf mix creates a haven for the juicy bugs your hungry broods love. And it doesn't stop there. Chick Magnet creates a favored spot for deer to forage and a place to hunt birds come fall. When broadcast and worked into the soil a 25 lb bag plants 1 acre. ----- #791140025</p>

PF/QF SPECIALTY FOOD PLOT PRODUCTS



Buckwheat, clovers, specialty deer forages and other products.

INFORMATION

Get creative! We can provide you with products that help you customize our Signature Series Mixes or create your own blend. These offerings are MicroNutrient enhanced, inoculated where required, and are not treated with Concep. Don't see what you are looking for? Just ask!

Check out our website for details about these and all of our seed offerings, or to purchase products online: www.pheasantsforever.org/seed

PF/QF POLLINATOR MIXES



INFORMATION

INFORMATION & ORDERING:

Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota

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moconnor@pheasantsforever.org

Buy online at: <http://www.iowapf.net/NativeGrassProgram.aspx>

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FOOD PLOTS – A CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITAT PRACTICE FOR YOUR FARM

GRAIN-BASED FOOD PLOTS - High energy, grain-based food plots are an essential management practice for game birds and other wildlife on private lands. Regardless of winter severity, it always makes good sense to provide additional food and cover for crisis situations, to use food plots to increase habitat diversity, and to create habitat for hunting and wildlife viewing. Where primary winter cover is limited, planting grain-based mixes (like sorghum blends) will provide structural cover in addition to food. Creating larger plots adjacent to your primary wintering areas increases the character of that shelter for your birds. That helps you achieve your primary objective—to bring your hens through the winter in peak condition for spring breeding, so improved body weight helps maximize chick production.

BROWSE MIXES - The Bird and Buck Line of green browse mixes from Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever provide forage that will help attract big game to your farm. In some cases, these mixes can also provide high quality brood habitat for upland birds. These mixes are a magnet for wildlife. They attract whitetails and other species to your property, and hold them there. PF/QF browse mixes are comprised of specially developed protein and energy rich forages that deer find irresistible. In addition, several Bird and Buck forage mixes create a leafy, insect rich structure that is important for gamebird chicks.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DO I NEED FOOD PLOTS ON MY FARM? High quality grain food plots play a critical role in the relationship between food, cover, movement and winter bird mortality. The logic is simple. Locating well-planned food and cover plots adjacent to heavy roosting cover provides a dependable source of high-energy food. With the food adjacent to winter cover, birds establish safe foraging patterns, and movements are minimized – so predation and weather losses are reduced.

WHAT MAKES PF/QF MIXES SPECIAL? Our biologists have developed PF/QF grain and forage mixes to provide the food and cover prescription that the wildlife on your farm need. Through continual product improvement, we have formulated very specific blends that are adaptable to most growing conditions, and that maximize benefits for your wildlife.

ARE SPECIALIZED MIXES WORTH THE EXTRA COST? Yes. Seed is likely the smallest expense in your overall food plot spending, yet it is the foundation of your effort to improve wildlife survival. Buy the very best seed that you can for your food plots. PF/QF food plot products come to you after extensive development and research, and following years of successful establishment on farms across the country. And they come to you with the full backing of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, two of the nation's most respected private conservation organizations.

MUST I USE HERBICIDES? Weeds are the most serious threat your food plot will face. Thus, we recommend some sort of herbicide treatment. Food plots planted without weed control have highly variable results. Weed problems can be addressed by tillage, chemical suppression, or a combination of both. While a few weeds actually improve food plot diversity, severe competition that causes the primary planting to fail wastes your food plot investment, and puts your wildlife in a bad position for winter. PF/QF food plot mixes are not RoundUp Ready, however, some are Concep-treated to allow expanded weed control. Pay attention to weed control recommendations on the bag for the best planting result.

DO I NEED FERTILIZER? Yes. Food plots are a crop for your wildlife—fertilize accordingly. Nutrient needs are easily assessed before planting season with a simple soil test (farm co-ops routinely do this at low cost), and the results will allow you to amend the soil properly. Legume food plots do not need nitrogen, but may require other supplements to optimize the stand. Grain plots almost always require significant nitrogen, and other supplemental nutrients (rotating into old legume browse areas may save you some money on nitrogen). PF/QF mixes carry micronutrient seed coatings to help our seed to get a jump on early growth. Even so, primary food plot fertilization is a must-do.

HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH MIXES ARE RIGHT FOR MY FARM? First examine your habitat objectives for your farm. What do you want to accomplish for which wildlife species? What are your desires for hunting and viewing? Look closely at winter food and cover conditions. If high energy winter food is limited, or poorly distributed, you need grain food plots to assist gamebirds. If deer lack succulent forage, you may need green browse plots, as well. Usually, if you have sufficient water and growing season length, there is a PF/QF food plot mix that will meet your needs.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT? With a few exceptions, Signature series mixes are planted in the spring. The agricultural operations occurring in your area will give you some idea of when to plant, but not all types of seed can be planted at the same time. Detailed planting instructions are found on each PF/QF food plot mix. Read them carefully.

WHAT ABOUT PLANTING EQUIPMENT? Signature Series food plot mixes can be established with standard row planters, drills, drop seeders, or with broadcast seeders mounted on a tractor, ATV or pickup truck. Complete planting instructions are on each bag. If you do not have your own equipment, it can often be rented from USDA Offices, local implement dealers, or wildlife agencies. PF/QF habitat specialists, private contractors, or a neighbor also may be able to assist you in planting your food plot. For more information on food plot design and other considerations consult the Pheasants Forever Essential Habitat Guide, and/or talk to a PF Habitat Specialist near you.

WHAT'S THE BEST LOCATION FOR MY WINTER FOOD PLOTS? Grain food plots should restrict unnecessary travel, and provide high quality food and supplemental cover adjacent to your bird's primary wintering areas. Birds forced to cross hostile territory for food suffer predator and weather mortality. Combat this by locating generous sized food plots directly next to winter cover (3 acres or larger is best). Blocks are preferable to linear plantings, and placement on the windward side of winter cover improves that habitat. If winter cover is scarce, 10-acre plantings of sorghum blends with heavy leaf structure (like Blizzard Buster) may provide all the food and shelter that birds need. Green browse plots will provide no winter cover for upland birds, but will provide forage for deer.

HOW LARGE SHOULD MY FOOD PLOT BE? We can't predict when wildlife will most need assistance, so commit to planting substantial food plots every year. Plan grain food plots for the worst case weather scenario. Don't create a project that will be buried by the first blizzard. Your plots will be used by many kinds of wildlife. Deer and turkeys consume a lot of grain. They exhaust small food patches well before winter ends. Since you can't keep them out, larger food plots (3-10 acres) are always most desirable. Select a food plot mix based on the cover and food values you need, and carefully assess the critical factors of size and location for your farm.

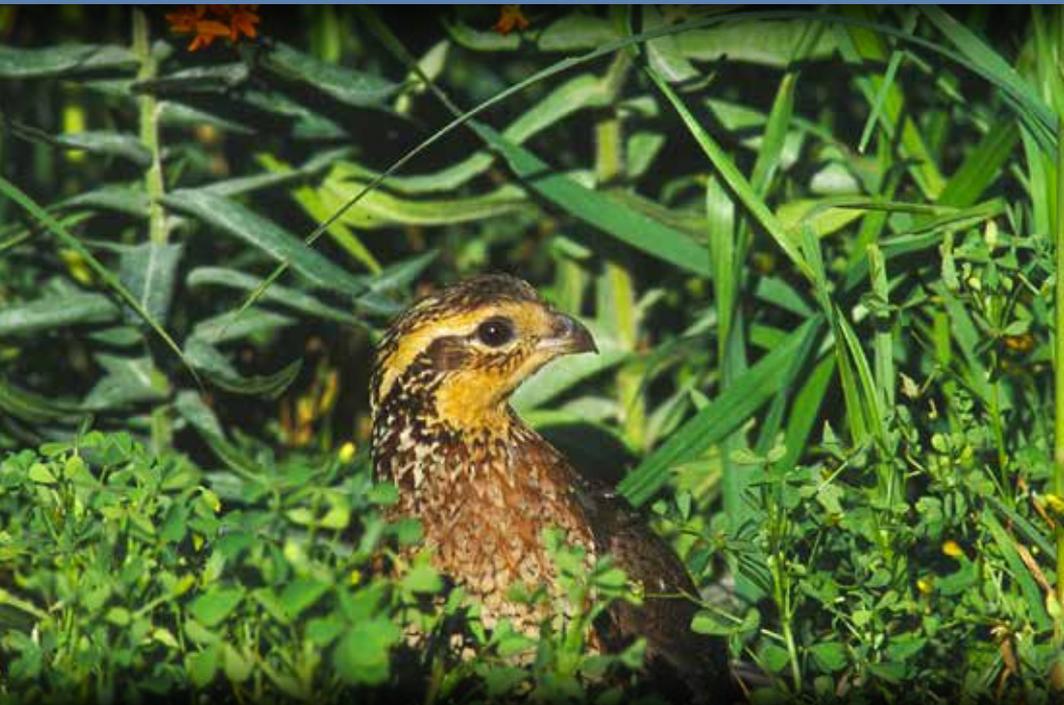
HOW LONG WILL MY FOOD PLOT LAST? Hopefully all winter long! Grain food plots generally last only until the next growing season (particularly if deer use it heavily). Almost without fail, you need to re-establish these food plots annually. In rare instances of low wildlife use, the grain from one year may carry over to the next on the stalks. Allowing a plot like this to grow up into annual weeds provides excellent brood habitat. Legume-type green browse food plots (blends of clovers, alfalfa, etc.) generally last several years. Combination leafy forage/root crops like turnips need to be re-planted each year.

WHAT OTHER FACTORS SHOULD I CONSIDER? Food plots alone are not going to "bring back the birds." Well-placed food patches will help bring more hens through winter in better condition. At that point, however, the other habitat you have established on your farm (nesting cover, brood rearing habitat, etc.) will play the leading role. Be sure you focus on establishing and managing those important areas for wildlife, as well.



THE HABITAT ORGANIZATION

Not a member? You should be. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever rank high among the most respected conservation organizations in North America. The reason is simple. We have a unique, homegrown structure comprised of local chapters raising funds, and investing in local habitat projects and conservation education for youth. Each day, our professional staff and thousands of volunteers work to assure a bright future for wildlife and the future generations that will enjoy our natural resources. Please consider joining us in those efforts. Call or visit the website below.



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