



WILDLIFE FOODPLOT SEEDS

For all of the forage plantings, it is understood that the planting area is free of grass and weeds with a soil texture that will allow soil to seed contact. Food plots do not need to be large. One half acre to two acres is optimum size. Ideally, food plots should be located close to cover with irregular shaped boundaries. If the food plot is in an open or hardwood area, consider planting some conifers along an edge.

Don't be afraid to experiment with different forage crops. Wildlife does best with a variety of food.

Seed varieties will be available at the tree sale pick-up.

Buckwheat: This should be planted after June 1st. *Plant 50 to 70 lbs. per acre.* Both the plant and seed are food. Buckwheat is a summer annual with rather coarse, branched stems and large, broadly arrow-shaped leaves. Buckwheat provides great summer forage and cover for wildlife.

Rye: Rye is a very popular cereal grain for cover crops or forage through late fall and early spring. Rye has very good winter hardiness. Rye matures very quickly in the spring, and will grow on a wide variety of soil types. It is an excellent choice for both food and cover for wildlife. Rye is typically planted to a depth of 1 inch. *Apply seed at 150 lbs/acre.*

Oats: Forage Oats are an excellent crop for most food plot sites to attract and hold wildlife. They are quick to establish. Oats are planted in early spring and when grazed or chopped early, they will tend to re-grow sufficiently for an additional harvest or some grazing during September and October. Oats grow well during periods of cooler temperatures (60-75 degrees ideal). *Plant oats at a rate of 60 to 80 lbs. per acre.*

Forage Rape: Rape is similar to canola and is an excellent winter food. It stands very well to heavy snow. *Plant 5 to 7 lbs. of seed per acre.* Forage rape works best in conjunction with turnips for fall and winter wildlife plots.

Forage Turnips: Similar to purple top turnips. Forage turnips should be planted in either spring (April 15th to May 15th) or early fall (August 1st-Sept. 15th) for best results. *A seeding rate of 2-3 pounds per acre is recommended* in conjunction with other forage types. Turnips are both cold-hardy and drought tolerant. They grow best in a moderately deep loam, fertile and slightly acid soil.

Ladino Clover: Ladino (white) clover is a short-lived perennial legume that grows rapidly. It grows best during cool, moist weather on well-drained, fertile soils. *A recommended seeding rate is 4-6 pounds per acre.* Clover should be planted in the spring (April 15th-June 1st) or fall (August 1st-Sept. 15th) to ensure good

establishment. It can be planted alone, but it is most beneficial when it is planted in combination with cool-season perennials.

Forage Chicory: A cool-season perennial. It produces abundant spring and summer forage that is highly preferred by whitetail deer. Chicory grows best on well-drained to moderately drained soils with medium to high fertility. *A seeding rate of 3-4 pounds per acre is recommended.* Chicory is best planted in the spring (April 15th to June 1st). It can be planted alone, but it is most beneficial when it is planted in combination with cool season legumes.