

WILDLIFE HABITAT & FOOD PLOTS

FAST FACTS

Wildlife Habitat and Food Plot Sites are generally small clearings in wooded areas or farmland. While planting dates differ between annual and perennial mixes, most are designed for spring or fall planting. Examples: Woodland openings, remote areas of large residential lots, abandoned fields, or timber harvest and loading areas.



SITE PREPARATION

If the site was previously a lawn or crop field to which herbicides were applied, it is important to allow the appropriate interval for the herbicide residues to break down prior to planting. Some herbicide residues can prevent seedling germination.

Eradicate existing vegetation by having a licensed spray technician apply an approved herbicide, such as glyphosate (Roundup® or Rodeo®), or by tilling the weeds into the soil. Hand pull or spot spray problem weeds. Perennial weeds not addressed before establishment will be difficult to remove later. Good pre-seeding weed control may require repeated tilling or spraying two applications of glyphosate at least two weeks apart.

GROWING SEASON MAINTENANCE

It may be necessary to mow some mixes to 4"-6" in order to keep plants young and tender. Annual food plot mixes must be planted yearly.



HABITAT

Well-drained or moderately well-drained sites in woodland openings (ideally near water sources); typically in full sun for at least half the day; upland species may be planted.



FERTILITY

Check soil pH and fertility; adding lime can improve the nutritional value of vegetation beneficial for wildlife. If a soil test has not been obtained, a starter fertilizer, such as 200 lb per acre of 16-16-16, should be applied. If uncertain about the soil pH, add 1,000-2,000 lb of lime per acre which will provide plants with essential nutrients without pushing up a lot of top growth. Lime and fertilizer may be incorporated into the soil using a tiller. After incorporating amendments, smooth the soil to develop a good seedbed. If broadcasting the seed, run a spring-tooth harrow or ATV over the site to incorporate the seed into the soil 1/4"-1/2" deep.



SEEDING METHOD

Hand seed, broadcast seed, or drill seed.



ERNMX-184 Fall Sweets Wildlife Mix. Credit: Elicia Winner.



A ringneck pheasant rooster takes flight in a hunting preserve using Ernst habitat mixes.



A pair of eastern wild turkey jakes in a spring food plot.



A mature whitetail deer standing on the edge of a marsh.

WILDLIFE HABITAT & FOOD PLOT SITES SEED MIXES

ERNMX-130	Wildlife Food Plot Mix
ERNMX-133	Keystone Deer & Turkey Habitat Mix
ERNMX-133-1	Keystone Big Buck Mix
ERNMX-170	Annual & Perennial Wildlife Food Plot Mix
ERNMX-171	Multi-Purpose/Multi-Year Wildlife Food & Shelter Mix
ERNMX-184	Fall Sweets Wildlife Mix
ERNMX-185	Spring Greens Mix

Mix formulations are subject to change without notice depending on the availability of existing and new products. While the formula may change, the guiding philosophy and function of the mix will not. See "Disclaimer," p. 15. For "Expectations of Native Species," see p. 12.

