



# Wildlife Catalog

**Seed for Wildlife Food Plots**



*"Food Plot Solutions from the People who know Seed"™*

# INTRODUCTION TO PLANTING FOOD PLOTS

Pennington's Wildlife Catalog of Seed for Wildlife Food Plots offers you a unique guide for establishing food plots to attract and hold wildlife. Each of the varieties or mixes in this book has planting information to help you establish productive food plots. To supplement these directions, we offer the following tips on basic planting practices:

1. Always lime and fertilize because most woodland soils are low in nutrients and tend to be acidic. A soil test will tell you how much to use and information on taking soil tests can be obtained from your local County Extension Office or online at [pennington.com](http://pennington.com).
2. Always prepare the soil by disking, smoothing and firming the seedbed. Good seed-soil contact is essential for a thick, productive stand.
3. Broadcast seeding by hand or with a spreader can produce good results if you are careful to cover most seed no deeper than ¼ inch and use a log, light drag or culti -packer to firm the soil after planting.
4. Select a site that is long and narrow with curves or bends to provide a sense of safety for wildlife. This is essential for deer and turkey. A rule of thumb is ¼ acre of food plot to 10 acres of habitat.
5. Avoid drought prone sites such as deep sands or shallow rocky soils. Southwest facing sites are hotter in the summer and tend to dry out fast. Plant warm season plots in areas with

afternoon shade. The reverse is generally true for cool season plots.

6. A minimum of 50% sunshine is essential for a healthy, productive food plot.
7. Grow something in your food plots year-round to provide adequate nutrition for wildlife. Disking strips and planting into existing plots is an excellent way to extend the productivity of the plot and hold wildlife all year long.
8. You may want to keep a record of each plot which can include planting and fertilizer information and number of animals observed or harvested.
9. Wire cages placed in the food plots that keep deer from grazing will provide you with valuable information on how productive the varieties are and how much forage is being grazed.

These simple tips along with specific information on seeding rates and times should give you the basics to grow abundant year-round food for your wildlife. Growing food plots is an economical and legal way to produce larger, healthier animals and increase your hunting success or wildlife sightings. Planting food plots for wildlife is legal in most areas of the United States if you follow normal agricultural practices. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Service Office and State Game Commission for specific information.

*Pennington Seed is proud to offer wildlife seed to improve your wildlife habitat. Our varieties and various mixes have been field tested for many years on the Pennington Farm and are the finest products on the market today.*

**See Pages 13 -15 for more details on Maintaining Food Plots  
and Planting Zone Maps**

# General Planting Method

## PLANTING:

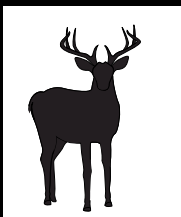
**METHOD:** If weeds exist on your food plot site, use a non-selective type chemical to kill the weeds and reduce competition. Prepare a smooth, firm seedbed by disking and dragging the soil. This will remove all vegetation and debris from the site thus eliminating competition. Fertilizer and lime can be applied during this step to allow it to be worked into the soil. Before spreading the seed, check to see that the seedbed is firm by using a culti-packer or drag to firm it if necessary. Broadcast the seed at the recommended rate evenly across the area. Using a light drag or packer, cover the seed no deeper than the maximum depth indicated on the seed package. Making good seed to soil contact is the key to establishing a productive food plot.

## Soil Test:

Many wildlife enthusiasts find liming their food plots to be an overwhelming task. Many soil test requires as much as a ton of Ag Lime per acre to be applied to raise the pH to adequate levels for plants to be productive. In the old days you really only had two choices; buy the Ag Lime in bulk and hire a local spreader truck to spread it for you or buy 50 each of the 40 lb bags of Pellet lime and do it yourself. In most cases, the large size spreader trucks or pull behind carts couldn't be taken into areas where food plots were planted. In the same way, 50 bags of Lime was just as difficult to haul back into the woods. Now with the new Pennington Fast Acting Lime, the job has been made much easier. Pennington's FAL is more effective than regular, longer lasting, goes to work faster and you need about 5 times less material to do the same job. One bag of Pennington's FAL is equivalent to 5 bags of regular Pelletized Lime and it only weighs 30 lbs. Each 30 lb bag covers 5,000 square foot and it starts working immediately upon contact with soil moisture. This new lime, with Active Soil Technology (AST), causes the lime to stay suspended in the soil profile 15 times longer. That is why you need much less material and it not only holds the Lime in place but helps it into hard compact soil types.

## FERTILITY:

**Apply:** Pennington Wildlife Food Plot Fertilizer 8-12-12 at a rate of 400 lbs./acre or 10 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. Follow the directions on the bag for subsequent applications. This fertilizer is specially formulated for wildlife food plots as well as native and natural vegetation. It is made up of slow release nitrogen fertilizer that will last for months. It has all the major and minor nutrients your plants will need such as iron, zinc, boron and many more. In addition, it contains dolomitic pelletized limestone to aid in neutralizing acidic soils.



Deer



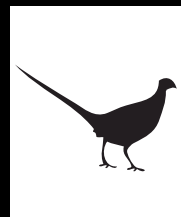
Turkey



Duck



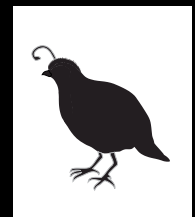
Dove



Pheasant



Rabbit



Quail

**These icons represent the type of wildlife each product feeds best.**



# COOL SEASON

## RACKMASTER SEED MIXTURES

### Rackmaster Elite

Type: cool season perennial seed mixture



**Uses:** Rackmaster Elite is a unique food plot seed mixture developed to attract whitetail deer, produce high yields and be a true perennial that can last for years without replanting. This product was developed to improve the health of the entire deer herd, providing high protein to increase antler and body mass. It will also help increase the weight of developing fawns and improve milk production in does. Rackmaster Elite features Durana and Patriot, two of Pennington's elite perennial white clovers, plus Chicory and other quality forage ingredients such as small grains, brassicas, winter peas and reseeding annual clovers.

Durana and Patriot white clovers are true perennials, genetically improved and university proven to be

more persistent in stressful environments such as over-grazing or weed competition. They are low maintenance clovers that tolerate acidic soil conditions and aggressively compete with weeds and grasses commonly found in many food plots. Durana and Patriot will produce over 25% protein and are university proven to last three times longer than conventional Ladino-type clovers. These two clovers have been exclusively selected by Pennington because of their wide adaptation to many climates, high protein and easy maintenance in food plots.

Chicory is an elite forage that produces over to 30% protein. It is a perennial plant that exhibits a greater persistence through summer's heat and produces high yielding, high protein food supplies throughout

the summer months. Chicory's extensive root system allows it to pull minerals from deep in the soil up through its leaves, making it mineral rich and highly palatable in addition to being high in protein making this a unique forb.

The Durana and Patriot white clovers along with other legumes in this mixture are pre-inoculated so they will produce nitrogen and share it with the other plants, reducing the amount of expensive commercial nitrogen needed. These legumes produce 150 lbs. of free nitrogen per acre per year for the food plot.

### Planting:

**Date:** Aug. - Oct. : Zones C, D & F  
Sept. - Nov. : Zones A, B & E  
March - April: Zones C, D & F

**Zone map is found on page 15**

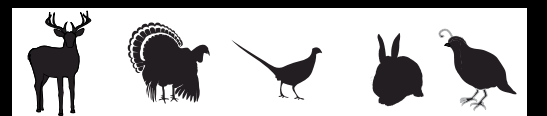
**Rate:** 25 lbs. covers up to ½ acre

**Depth:** 1/4" maximum



### Rackmaster Deluxe (Fall)

Type: cool season annual seed mixture



**Uses:** Rackmaster Deluxe fall mixtures contain small grains mixed with annual legumes for attracting and holding deer on your property. This fall mixture is regionally developed to provide the best planting material marketed for your area. These cool season

plots are important to help your deer herd build up the carbohydrates needed as stored fat to survive the harsh winter months. Maintaining good body condition through the rut and the winter stress season can make a difference in the quality of your deer herd. This seed mixture also contains reseeding annual clovers that will provide food through late spring and reseed itself from year to year. Wintergrazer 70 rye, arrowleaf clover, crimson clover, wheat, oats, brassica and Austrian winter peas are just a few of the

ingredients you may find in the regionally developed Rackmaster mixtures.

### Planting:

**Date:** **North:** Aug. - Oct.  
**South:** Sept. - Nov.

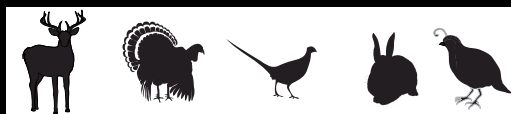
**Rate:** 50 lbs. covers up to ½ acre

**Depth:** 1/4"



## Rackmaster Chicory

Type: cool season perennial



**Uses:** Rackmaster® Chicory is high quality, high protein and high yielding forage for deer and other wildlife. Rackmaster chicory has been selected for its high yields, improved cool season growth and improved persistence. Chicory can produce up to 6 tons of dry matter forage per acre per

### Planting:

**Date:** Aug. - Oct. & Feb - April

**Rate:** 5 lbs./ 1 2/3 acre

**Depth:** 1/4" maximum

year with protein levels over 30% and digestibility of the new leaves up to 90. Through its deep taproot, chicory has the ability to take minerals from deep in the soil and make them more available in its leaves. Increased potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, zinc and sodium make chicory irresistible to whitetail deer. Chicory is a highly preferred, grazing tolerant plant that has good drought resistance.

Because it grows more actively during the warm season months, Chicory is a good companion plant to grow with white clovers like Durana and Patriot.



## Rackmaster Clover Trio

Type: cool season perennial legume blend



**Uses:** Rackmaster Clover Trio is a blend of annual and perennial clovers designed to germinate quickly and provide a strong start to a food plot that will persist for years. The staggered maturity dates of these clovers

will ensure that there is adequate protein rich forage available to your deer herd when it is most needed. The critical times for adequate protein are during summer antler growth, post rut and spring fawn drop. Clover Trio

makes an excellent stand-alone plot or works well mixed with small grains like wheat, oats and Wintergrazer 70 rye.

### Planting:

**Date:** **North** Aug. - Oct.  
Frost seeding- Jan. - Feb.  
March - May

**South** Sept. - Dec.

**Rate:** 5 lbs./ 1/2 acre

**Depth:** 1/8" maximum



## Rackmaster Deer Greens

Type: annual forage



**Uses:** Deer Greens is a combination of annual rape, radish, kale and turnip that will provide an abundant mass of green leafy plants and roots that are very attractive to deer in the fall and

winter months. Many hunters will add Deer Greens in small quantities (2 lbs./acre) to a fall mixture of grain and clover to provide a fast growing, attractive component to their mixture. Deer Greens become even more attractive after a frost because the sugar content becomes more concentrated in the leaves and root. Deer Greens work

well by themselves or make a great addition to any mixture.

### Planting:

**Date:** **North** Aug. - Oct.  
March - May

**South** Sept. - Nov.

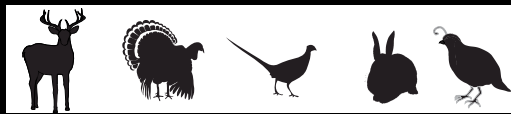
**Rate:** 5 lbs./ 1/2 acre

**Depth:** 1/4"



## Rackmaster Durana Clover

Type: cool season perennial white clover



**Uses:** Rackmaster® Durana white clover is a unique white clover on the market for whitetail deer management. Durana was developed by Dr. Joe Bouton, while at the University of Georgia, to persist under grazing pressure, tolerate acidic soils, compete aggressively with weeds and grasses and to tolerate low management situations. Durana, unlike ladino clover, is an intermediate white clover, having a a medium leaf size and a leaf density that is very thick from the ground to

the top of the plant. This leaf density will help prevent weed invasion and medium sized leaves are more preferred by wildlife and help the plant regrow faster after grazing or mowing. Durana possesses a high stolon density; it has 97 stolons per square foot, unlike conventional ladino clovers which only have 52 per square foot. This high stolon density is the key to plant survival and persistence in your food plot for years to come. It is pre-inoculated and lime coated for easy seeding and optimal nitrogen fixation. Durana will outlast conventional ladino clovers in food plots

and persist for 3 times longer on good moisture holding soils. With protein levels of over 25% and digestibility of over 75%, Durana makes an excellent pure stand or combination planting for any food plot to feed, attract and hold multiple species of game on your property. Durana is the most persistent, productive and highly preferred white clover on the market today.

### Planting:

**Date:** **North** Aug. - Oct.  
Frost seeding - Jan. - Feb.  
March - May

**South** Sept. - Dec.

**Rate:** 5 lbs./acre

**Depth:** 1/8" maximum

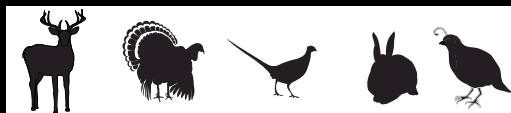


The Durable, All Purpose White Clover



## Rackmaster Patriot Clover

Type: cool season perennial white clover



**Uses:** Rackmaster® Patriot white clover is a cross between Durana and a ladino type. Patriot was developed by University of Georgia plant breeder Dr. Joe Bouton to be a very productive forage yielder and persist under grazing pressure, tolerate acidic soils, compete aggressively with weeds

and grasses and to tolerate low management situations. Patriot is pre-inoculated and lime coated for easy seeding and optimal nitrogen fixation. Patriot will outlast conventional ladino clovers in food plots, produce just as much forage and persist for years on good moisture holding soils. With

protein levels over 25% and digestibility over 75%, Patriot makes an excellent pure stand or combination planting for any food plot to feed, attract and hold game on your property.

### Planting:

**Date:** **North** Aug. - Oct.  
Frost seeding - Jan. - Feb.  
March - May

**South** Sept. - Dec.

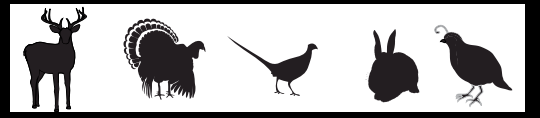
**Rate:** 5 lbs./acre

**Depth:** 1/8" maximum



## Rackmaster Refuge

Type: cool season annual mixture



**Uses:** Rackmaster® Refuge is a fall and spring planted seed mixture of annual greens, perennial and annual clover that will provide an abundant high protein diet for deer, turkey and other wildlife. Refuge mixture is an easy to plant mixture that will thrive on most

soil types. Refuge makes an ideal food plot that will germinate quickly to provide immediate high protein food supplies to fill the nutritional gaps found in nature. With fast germination and immediate forage production, your plots will start feeding wildlife days

after germination and continue feeding throughout the fall, winter, spring and into the summer months because of the staggered growth habits of the different plants in this mixture.

### Planting:

**Date:** **North** Aug. - Oct.  
Frost seeding - Jan. - Feb.  
March - May

**South** Sept. - Dec.

**Rate:** 5 lbs./ ½ acre

**Depth:** 1/4" maximum



## Rackmaster Trophy Radishes

Type: cool season annual



**Uses:** Rackmaster® Trophy Radishes™ is one of the newest and BEST food plot brassicas on the market. Trophy Radishes™ are great planted alone or they make an ideal companion species. This fast growing radish

produces huge yields both above and below the ground (Over 5000 lbs/ac production in tops and over 2000 lbs/ac in roots). The high protein (over 20%) and lush, tender leaves make it highly attractive during hunting sea-

son. Once the radish dies in the winter, the plant turns into rich organic matter and releases nitrogen to improve your soil.

### Planting:

**Date:** **North** Aug. - Nov. ideal planting to occur about 45 days before 1st frost

**Rate:** 5 lbs./ ½ acre

**Depth:** 1/4" to 1/2" drill or broadcast  
good seed to soil contact is important



All of Rackmaster/Buckmaster wildlife seed is coated with GermMax. GermMax is a seed coating that promotes faster germination of seed. Faster germination means quicker emergence and stronger, deeper root growth. This can result in a healthier, hardier stand that will attract and hold wildlife in your food plots longer.



# BUCKMASTERS

**Jackie Bushman** founded Buckmasters in 1985 and has cultivated a strong following of over 330,000 members making Buckmasters the largest association of whitetail deer hunters in the world. Pennington Seed,

America's premier seed company since 1945, and Buckmasters have teamed up to offer revolutionary new seed mixtures to improve your wildlife habitat and help you grow the largest and healthiest deer possible. The

Buckmasters seed mixtures are field tested and guaranteed by Pennington and Buckmasters to produce high protein food plots that deer love to eat.

## Buckmasters Ultimate

Type: cool season perennial seed mixture



Buckmasters Ultimate wildlife seed mixture contains Pennington's exclusive Durana and Patriot white clovers which are University tested and proven to last up to three times longer than conventional Ladino white clovers. These two powerhouse clovers are

### Planting:

**Date:** North Aug. - Oct.

Frost seeding - Jan. - Feb.

March - May

**South** Sept. - Dec.

Jan. - Mar.

**Rate:** 4 lbs./ ½ acre

**Depth:** 1/8" maximum

blended with a variety of super-high protein plants to include chicory, red, crimson clover and arrowleaf clover. This mixture of ingredients will provide a year-round food source for wildlife that can last for years without replanting. Buckmasters Ultimate is pre-inoculated so you can simply

sow and grow your ultimate, high protein food plot for the biggest, healthiest deer possible!



## Buckmasters Feeding Frenzy

Type: cool season annual seed mixture



Buckmasters Feeding Frenzy is a seed mixture designed to germinate quickly, grow fast and hold whitetails around your food plot for the entire hunting season. A combination of tender small grains, winter hardy rye, brassicas, sweet winter peas and re-seeding protein rich clovers are specifically formulated in the precise percentages to ensure that deer can utilize each plot at its maximum potential. Buckmaster Feeding Frenzy is the ideal food plot mixture to establish a harvest plot. This mixture is fast germinating and highly attractive every week of the

### Planting:

**Date:** Aug. - Oct.: Zones C, D and E

Sept. - Nov.: Zones A, B, E

**Zone Map is found on page 15**

**Rate:** 25 lbs./ ½ acre

**Depth:** 1/4"

season consistently bringing deer into your food plot daily. After planting Feeding Frenzy, the oats will germinate first and quickly grow, luring deer from surrounding areas to your food plot. The other ingredients will germinate and begin to mature soon after. The time tested sweet winter peas will provide a highly desirable forage which will continue to attract deer to your hunting area. As winter sets in, the carbohydrates in the brassicas are converted to sugars, making the plants highly palatable and promoting energy and nutrition during the coldest months following the rut. The clovers will grow through the winter into

spring even after the hunting season is over providing high quality nutrition for post-rut bucks and pregnant does. Every seed is treated with GermMax to maximize germination rates and get your plants off to a strong and healthy start. Buckmaster Feeding Frenzy is our best winter annual harvest plot mixture





# WARM SEASON

## Rackmaster Deluxe (Spring/Summer)

Type: warm season annual seed mixture



**Uses:** Rackmaster Deluxe spring/summer mixture is truly the answer to anyone's spring and summer planting program. Deer need a good high quality food source in the spring and summer months more than any other time of year. Rackmaster will provide the fuel to develop antlers, body size,

### Planting:

**Date:** March. - June and Aug - Sept. for early fall plots

**Rate:** 50 lbs./acre

**Depth:** 1/2"

milk for developing fawns and overall health for the entire deer herd. Soybeans, iron clay cowpeas, buckwheat, sunflower, and sorghum make up the perfect mixture of seed ingredients to create an ideal food source and excellent cover for deer, turkey, dove and quail. High in protein and extremely palatable, Rackmaster summer plots provide deer with proper nutrition throughout the spring and summer months. It is also an ideal plot for late summer planting providing rapid growth and quickly established plots

for early bow season hunting before frost.



## LabLab

Type: warm season annual legume



**Uses:** This summer bean is extremely high yielding and drought tolerant. Since it is vulnerable to early grazing pressure, plant in big fields or protect

with fencing or repellents. Once established, its high protein makes it excellent for deer throughout the summer and fall until a killing frost. LabLab

should be planted with a millet, sorghum or corn to provide a stalk for the vines to climb up. This helps increase its productivity.

### Planting:

**Date:** April - June

**Rate:** 10 lbs./acre

**Depth:** 1/2"



# WINGMASTER SEED MIXTURES

## Wingmaster Quail Mixture

Type: warm season annual mixture



**Uses:** Want more quail? Provide habitat for brood-rearing, nesting, loafing, roosting, and protection from predators and inclement weather and they will come. Food plots that produce open ground at chick level with overhead cover make ideal areas for quail chicks to be effective insect predators. With over 90% of chicks' diets made up of high protein insects in its first few weeks of life, insect producing areas are critical to chick survival. In addition, a healthy quail population needs a good supply of seed producing plants to provide a consistent year-round food supply. Pennington's WingMaster Quail Mixture is a

combination of seed producing plants that provides an excellent food source, cover and brood-rearing area. These seed producing plants include proso millets, brown top millet, and sunflower. Throughout the late spring and summer months, WingMaster Quail Mixture produces seed for foraging quail. This seed mixture has plants maturing and dropping seed to the ground over a long period of time. From about 60 days after germination in early summer and extending into the winter, WingMaster provides an abundant supply of seed. In addition, quail benefit from idled or fallowed areas that run along side a

high yielding seed producing food plot. Idled or fallowed land is land that is left undisturbed for short periods of time, usually two to three years. These areas are best distributed across your property as edges. Field corners, field edges, field borders, fencerows, tree lines or drainages are all ideal areas for developing an edge effect that benefit quail. The greater the edge the better, so develop them with the most edge effect derived from long, narrow, winding configuration. For example, an acre (209' X 209') has 836 feet of edge. In contrast, a long, narrow linear acre, 20 feet wide and 2,178 feet long, has 4,356 feet of edge—that's over three-quarters of a mile. Proper management of these edges will consist of fall or winter disking every two to three years.

### Planting:

**Date:** April - June

**Rate:** 40 lbs./acre

**Depth:** 1/4"

## Wingmaster Wild Turkey Mixture

Type: warm season annual mixture



**Uses:** Like quail, turkeys need good habitat for brood-rearing and feeding areas. WingMaster Wild Turkey Mixture produces abundant seed and insects to meet these needs. For the first few weeks, turkey poult diets consist primarily of high protein insects so areas producing insects are critical to their survival. In addition, a healthy turkey population will need a variety of plant matter to provide seed, leaves, tubers, fruits, forbs and grasses for a consistent year round food supply. Pennington's WingMaster Wild Turkey Mixture includes millets, grain sorghum, buckwheat, chufa, and white clover which are a combination of plant species meeting those needs in addition to proving excellent habitat,

cover, and brood-rearing areas. This seed mixture has plants maturing and dropping seed to the ground from late spring throughout fall and winter. From about 50 days after germination in late spring and extending into the winter, WingMaster provides an abundant supply of seed, tubers, leaves, other plant material and insects. The perennial plant components of this seed mixture continue to produce seed, grasses, leaves, insects and habitat for years to come.

In addition, turkeys need both large and small permanent openings for good habitat. Field corners, field edges, field borders, fencerows, tree lines or drainages are all ideal areas for developing an opening with an

edge effect that benefit turkeys. Proper management of these edges consists of fall or winter disking every three years. This disking should be the beginning of a 3-year vegetative succession of habitat stages. The first year should be WingMaster food plot establishment in the spring, followed by letting this area remain idle for the next two years. Establishing food plots across your property in a staggered or delayed process to allow for 30% to 50% of total openings to be idle and the rest in an establishment year or fallow year will make for the best turkey habitat. For example, having your openings divided up into thirds, will allow for one third to be planted this year, while two thirds lay idle. Taking the oldest idle plots back into food plots every third year will keep your plots rotated, fresh, manageable, and full of insects.

### Planting:

**Date:** April - June

**Rate:** 40 lbs./acre

**Depth:** 1/4"

# Wingmaster Dove Mixture

Type: warm season annual mixture



**Uses:** The mourning dove is a migratory game bird that has four basic habitat needs: food, cover, water and grit. These needs must be met to produce more local nesting birds and attract migratory birds during the season. With the popularity of dove hunting on the rise, hunting clubs and field managers are seeking ways to compete with nearby fields. Planning, understanding the birds and providing necessary habitat will go a long way toward having a successful hunt.

Doves need a water source within one mile of their food source. In addition, doves need grit (small bits of gravel and larger grains of sand) in their diets to help grind food in the gizzard. Gravel roads and roadsides are a perfect location for birds to find this grit. Doves are seed eaters with about 99% of the diet made up of seed in late summer and fall. Pennington's WingMaster Dove Mixture is a combination of plants that meet the seed requirements of the mourning dove. Our mixture is a combination of small seeded millet, grain sorghum and sunflower that provide a plentiful supply of seed. This seed combination features staggered maturity with

some plants producing seed in as little as 60 days with others taking 110 days. This allows food supplies to become available early to attract and hold the resident birds. As the entire mixture matures, plants drop seed to the ground providing an abundant supply of seed for the entire season. It is important to plant WingMaster Dove mixtures no later than May 15 so the plants will have time to mature and shatter seed. Later plantings or time-delayed plantings are preferred if late season hunts and additional field manipulation is required.

Site selection of a dove field is often one of the most important field management decisions overlooked. Avoid fields near houses, housing developments, highways, livestock confinement buildings such as poultry houses and large areas of woodlands. Also avoid establishing fields too close to existing ones (a good rule of thumb is five miles apart). If this cannot be avoided, then cooperate and coordinate shooting days with adjoining landowners. Open fields with plenty of room (10 acres) are ideal areas for establishing dove fields. Keeping safety in mind, hunter placement should be

top on the list when selecting a field. Crowded hunting environments can make for a miserable hunting experience as well as a dangerous one. In addition, consideration of perch trees (leafless trees or thorn trees), power lines, and proximity to water and grit are all important components of good dove fields.

Field manipulation is also important because doves prefer to land in areas where the ground is clean and bare and then walk to the food source. Mowing down strips in your field will open up the ground and scatter seeds in the process. Mowing these strips weekly starting six weeks in advance of hunting season will help hold more birds on your property. Disking old mowed strips is also a good method of further manipulating the field and attracting more birds. By having some plants upright, some mowed down and some disked up, you will provide a haven for birds.

Doves are federally regulated migratory birds, therefore hunters should take extreme care and pay close attention to federal and state regulations regarding dove field management.

## Planting:

**Date:** April - June

**Rate:** 40 lbs./acre

**Depth:** 1/4"



# Wingmaster Duck Mixture

Type: warm season annual mixture



**Uses:** Many waterfowl species benefit from habitat improvements like supplemental plantings. These same habitat improvements will also attract more mallard duck, the most popular and most sought after waterfowl species in the U.S. Cover, food and shallow water are the basic habitat requirements needed for good waterfowl management. Ducks are herbivores, often characterized as grazers and seed eaters. They have diverse diets of grasses, forbs, seeds, fruits, acorns, cultivated crops and aquatic plants. Plantings of seed producing plants around the edges and in waterfowl impoundments can provide excellent food and habitat for waterfowl.

## Planting:

**Date:** April - June

**Rate:** 40 lbs./acre

**Depth:** 1/4"

Pennington's WingMaster Duck Mixture is a combination of seed producing plants that make an excellent food source for ducks including Japanese millets, proso millet, buckwheat, and grain sorghum. Planting food along water edges, in impoundments or in low areas that flood during the winter are excellent ways to increase habitat and hold more birds on your property. Pennington's Duck Mixture is tolerant of some flooding, however water should be held off until plants are fully mature or about 80 days after germination. For dabbling ducks or puddle ducks that feed in shallow water, levels should be kept in the range of 6" to 18" inches deep once flooding occurs.

Some practical pond management such as thinning or removing non-mast crop trees along the water's edge helps to increase sunlight exposure to the soil thus increasing natural food supplies from seed-producing weed and grass plants. Also carefully controlling water levels in waterfowl impoundments helps provide good growth for your supplemental food source or encourage natural food supplies to grow.

Waterfowl are federally regulated migratory birds, therefore hunters should take extreme care and pay close attention to federal and state regulations regarding field management.



# SUCCESSFUL WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS

1. Understanding basic wildlife needs when developing your property will help you get started and lead to much greater success. Making sure you meet the basic needs of wildlife is essential to developing a true wildlife refuge that makes your property a real showplace and something you can be proud of. Food, water, shelter and a place to raise young are the basic necessities needed by wildlife to survive and thrive on your property.

2. The next step to successful food plots is knowing and understanding your objective. Land managers develop food plots on their property for many different reasons. Determining your main goals and objectives up front helps you establish the right kind of plot. Before you begin, ask yourself these questions: Is your food plot to facilitate the harvest of game, to develop a wildlife viewing area, to improve management, to increase carrying capacity, or a combination of these goals? Your goals and objectives helps determine the different sites, planting materials, size and shape of the plot and plot management techniques you use in establishing a successful wildlife food plot on your property.

3. After determining the goals and objectives for developing food plots, the next step is site selection. The location you choose is very important to the success of your plot. If your goal is to establish a plot only for harvest, you want to locate it within clear view and close proximity to your stand. On the other hand, if you are developing a plot to feed deer to improve antler size, promote milk production in does, increase body size and promote overall herd health, you want to select a site that is in an isolated area. A secluded, undisturbed area promotes greater use of the plot allowing wildlife to come and go as they feed without fear. Many areas throughout a farm will make ideal sites to establish a food plot. These areas would include woodland openings, right-of-ways, firebreaks, logging roads, log decks, interior roads, thinned pines, field corners, etc. Just keep in mind that all plots need at least 50% sunlight to be productive. In addition, soil type and weather helps to determine which crops will grow best. Food plots are very attractive to wildlife, so careful selection is important. Never locate a plot near a roadside or in plain view of a road or near property lines.

4. The size and shape of your food plots can make a difference. The size of the plots or overall acres to be planted can be difficult to determine. One rule of thumb is to plant at least 2 to 5 acres for every 100 acres of habitat. You should start off on the lighter side of the percentage and work to build more plots as deer utilization increases. Depending on natural habitat, deer density and many other factors, you will need to increase the total number of acres you plant over time to maintain a reasonable amount of growth within each plot. Once again, it is important to understand your goals and objectives because

they play a major role in determining the size and shape of your plots. For example, if you are strictly a bow hunter looking to establish a harvest plot, you want to locate your plot close to a good stand location with the outermost edge of the planting still in bow range. A number of factors play a role in determining the size and shape of your food plots. The factors include, but are not limited to, overall number of plots you have, total acres you want to plant, distance between plots, game species you want to attract, lay of the land (slope, direction to the sun, lowland or upland). Even the plants you want to grow can determine the size and shape of your food plots. How the food plot affects the surrounding landscape will also be a consideration. For example, many game species benefit from edge created alongside a food plot. Creating an edge effect gives wildlife more diverse habitat, cover, more diverse food supplies and make them feel more secure. A long narrow food plot with a bend or two would be the most preferred shape for creating the most edge effect. In addition, leaving a natural grass/weed/vine habitat along the edge of the plot or tree line is great for attracting and increasing insects for turkey and quail chicks. Edge areas should be disked every third year to keep them from getting too overgrown. Disking edge areas: Divide edge areas into thirds, so you only disk one third of the areas each year. Disk across these areas multiple times to kill any tough weeds that have established over the past two years. Smooth the surface so that the soil is easy for quail and turkey chicks to pass through. Then let nature take its course. Grass and weeds soon fill in, creating cover, an insect haven and additional natural food supplies.

5. Once you have selected a site or sites to grow your food plots, the next step is soil testing. Because food plots are crops and understanding the soil, its fertility requirements and ability to grow different plants is essential for success. Good soil fertility can mean the difference in how much food per acre you can grow, how well your plants compete with weeds, the survivability of perennials, simple nutrient uptake and many other important factors. One of those other factors is pH. Most plots require a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.0. Many land managers overlook soil testing and never realize that many of the problems they encounter come from this oversight. Do not underestimate the importance of soil fertility and pH. For example, a soil pH of 5.0 will cause about 50% of all the fertilizer you apply not to be utilized by the plants you are growing. In dollar value, this means that fifty cents of every dollar spent on fertilizer is wasted. You are encouraged to test your soil and keep the pH around 6.5. It can make the difference in your success or lack thereof. In addition, a good, well-balanced, complete fertilizer applied at ideal times is essential. Pennington Wildlife Food Plot Fertilizer 8-12-12 at a rate of 400 lbs./acre or 10 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. may be all the fertilizer your plots need to be lush and healthy. This fertilizer is specially formulated for wildlife

food plots as well as native and natural vegetation. It is made up of slow release nitrogen that last for months, plus it has all the major and minor nutrients your plants need, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, iron, zinc, boron and more. In addition, it contains dolomitic palletized limestone as the filler to aid in neutralizing acidic woodland soils. This complete fertilizer is made of 100% usable ingredients, so you are not buying and hauling heavy fillers that take up space, add weight and do nothing to help your plot grow.

6. Field preparation is the next step to developing a successful food plot. The current condition of your food plot determines how to get started. Young seedling plants cannot compete with established weed competition, so if weeds are a problem a good chemical burn-down is essential. In addition a good seedbed makes a big difference in how well these plots establish. The best method of doing this is to kill the weeds, then disk and drag to prepare a smooth, level seedbed. Finish by firming the soil before planting the seed with some type of roller or packer. This kills all of the existing weeds, remove all vegetation and debris from the site, breaks up the hard soil and firms everything back to a smooth level surface. Fertilizer and lime can be applied during the disking step so that it can be worked into the soil. A fine soil texture is most desirable, so break up clods and level the soil as you work it. This creates an ideal seedbed for even the smallest seed such as white clover to thrive.

7. Seed selection comes next and is vital to accomplishing your goals in establishing your plots. Different species of wildlife utilize different plants throughout the year, so know what you are planting, where it grows, how it grows, when it grows, what wildlife will be attracted to it and how productive it will be. Other considerations include knowing the plant material and its ability to grow high quality, high protein food plots and knowing if they will be drought, heat or cold tolerant. This wildlife catalog has been designed to help answer these questions. In this catalog, each plant material is listed as an annual, perennial, mixture or blend. A short description of the plant characteristics and requirements follow. This information helps you determine what you should plant to meet the goals you have set for your food plots. Pennington Seed has the right seed products to fit your needs, no matter how diverse your goals are.

8. Be as diligent at planting the plot as you are in selecting the right seed. Today there are many different planting implements to choose from including all- in-one planting drills, no-till drills, cyclone seeders that fit your truck, tractor or ATV, and also hand-held seeders. In addition you must consider the date, timing, soil moisture, soil temperature, soil condition, seed coatings, inoculants, planting depth and all the other considerations mentioned in these planting guidelines. Consider

all of these factors while you are in the planning stages. This pays huge dividends in the end. Plant the seed evenly at the recommended seeding rate. Use a drag or packer to cover the seed no deeper than the maximum depth indicated. Good seed to soil contact is key to establishing a productive food plot.

9. Understanding how to manage your food plot is also a key component to its success or failure. Maintaining a good soil fertility program, keeping the plot weed free and scouting for potential insect or other pest problems can aid in extending the life of any food plot, increasing the overall yield of the plot and achieving full satisfaction for you.

10. Food plots are supplemental plantings, so knowing when wildlife utilizes these plots will help you enjoy them even more. There are two major periods each year when wildlife needs these plots the most: late summer and late winter stress periods. A good food plot will be growing strong through the fall and late winter to supply wildlife forage during harsh winter conditions. Likewise, the same is needed through the spring and summer months to supply wildlife during summer droughts and the late summer stress period. Managers should expect utilization to be at its peak during these two most stressful times of the year. These times are also good times to evaluate your plots to determine if there is enough food on the table, or if more needs to be planted in subsequent years to better meet the needs of wildlife through these stressful periods. Attractiveness of the forage also attributes to utilization. Simply put, certain plants are more preferred than others and certain plants are preferred during different times of the year. During the 200-day antler development cycle, bucks need a high protein food source, while during the fall, they need foods high in carbohydrates to store fat. Developing plots with diversified plants is an easy way to cover all your bases. Mixtures of seed that have been properly formulated like our Rackmaster products are easy to obtain to achieve this diversity.

11. At the end of the day every land manager wants to evaluate and judge the plot on how well it was utilized by wildlife. This can be done simply by making an exclusion cage to keep deer, turkey, rabbits and all other game out of a given area. An exclusion cage can be made of heavy gauge wire and staked to the ground so it will not move. This allows the same amount of sunlight, rain and fertilizer on the area, but eliminates any browse pressure from that specific spot. In time you should see the enclosed area grow and mature inside the cage while the productive plot around it will be eaten down, especially during the stressful months of the year. An exclusion cage can also tell you a lot about your plot. Many managers plant a plot and not return for several weeks and in some cases, the return can be a disappointing one. When the manager sees the area and it is bare ground or full of grassy weeds, they tend to assume the plot did not germinate, or perhaps germinated,



but did not survive. An exclusion cage is invaluable because it gives you a protected area so you can evaluate exactly what has happened in your absence. If the seed did not germinate, then both inside the cage and outside should look the same. But if plants are growing strong inside the cage, but don't appear to be growing outside the cage or you only see weeds outside the cage, you know that wildlife moved in and ate all the forage production. And it should tell you to plant more because wildlife in this area does not have enough to eat.

12. Natural and native vegetation is important wildlife food. As you establish supplemental food plots, be sure to maintain native and natural fruit and nut trees, shrubs, hedges, vines and other plant materials already present so that the overall habitat is more appealing to the species of wildlife you are managing. Properly identifying, fertilizing and caring for these plants is key to ensuring they survive on your property. Pennington's Wildlife Food Plot Fertilizer has a complete fertilization label for these plants. Refer to the back of the bag for complete details.

13. Mineral licks can also be an important part of an overall food plot program. A good mineral lick can provide essential minerals not provided by the food plot or natural vegetation. Rackmaster Deer Mineral is a complete all natural, loose mineral supplement that can help to achieve overall herd health. This 2:1 ratio of calcium to phosphorus plus sodium chloride can be applied straight onto the ground or placed on a stump or log. It is easy to use and blends in well with its surroundings. It is utilized most during the spring, summer and early fall months. The loose mineral product makes it easy to recharge licks and keep plenty of minerals available as a free choice supplement.

14. The final step in creating successful food plots is keeping records. Good record keeping helps you in a number of ways. The information should be logged into some form of diary or record book and should include seed planted, time of year planted, rate and depth of planting, growth and observations, fertilizer and lime used along with rate and date of application, animals observed or harvested and any other information you choose to jot down for future reference. It will be a valuable reference for you at a later date.

**Zone Map**



## Calculating Food Plot Size

$$\text{Acres} = \frac{\text{length (L)} \times \text{width (W)}}{43,560}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= 300 \text{ feet} \\ L &= 1,742 \text{ feet} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{1,742 \times 300}{43,560} = 11.997 \text{ acres}$$

$$\text{Acres} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\text{length} \times \text{width})}{43,560}$$

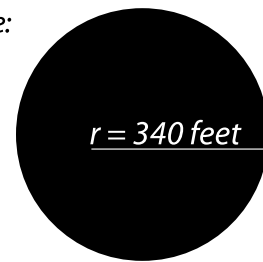
Example:



$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{(1,742 \times 300)}{43,560} = 5.99 \text{ acres}$$

$$\text{Acres} = \frac{\pi \times r^2}{43,560} \quad \pi = 3.14 \quad r = \text{radius}$$

Example:



$$\frac{3.14 \times 340^2}{43,560} = 8.33 \text{ acres}$$



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