

# Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever

# **Habitat Information Sheet #13**

# Bird, Buck, & Brood Food

# **Signature Series Food Plot**

## **General Description**

Bird, Buck, & Brood Food is a highly-diverse blend of high protein legumes, forbs, brassicas, small grains, and annual grass providing the ultimate buffet for deer and turkey while providing nesting and brood-rearing cover for pheasants and quail. This mix provides early season food sources, late season food sources, and yearround cover. It is literally the "Jack-of-all-trades" food plot.

## **Target Species / Wildlife Value**

This diverse mix is critical for antler, muscle, and bone growth for Midwest whitetails. It's also the perfect food plot mix for turkey hunters. Lastly, it's great nesting and brood-rearing habitat for turkey, pheasant, and quail.



## **Timeline**

Generally, conduct site prep in early to mid-April. Typically plant mid-April to mid-June.

# **Planting Rates**

1 acre (8 lb bag) and 3 acres (25 lb bag).

#### Contains

A proprietary blend of 11 varieties of legumes, forbs, brassicas, small grains, and annual grass including pasja, sweet clover, buckwheat, cool season peas, sunflower, cowpeas, white mustard, alfalfa, rapeseed, millet, and partridge pea.

#### **Similar PFQF Signature Series Blends**

**Clover Kandy** is a similar green browse mix including seven clovers and other legumes (alsike, arrowleaf, berseem, crimson, ladino, red clovers and alfalfa).

#### Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever

# Bird, Buck, & Brood Food Signature Series Food Plot

**General Planting Instructions** 

# Site Preparation (generally early to mid-April)

Poor site preparation is the number one reason for project failures. Mow (or burn) your food plot 3 to 5 weeks before planting to remove residual plant material from previous year. Alternately, mow (or disk) the previous fall, followed by spring disking and/or a burn-down herbicide application when new weedy growth is visible.

Get a soil test! Soil tests can be done in the fall or early spring. Typically, you should schedule 3-4 weeks for results. This is the only true way to determine your fertilizer, nutrient, and pH adjustment (lime) needs.

Spray with a contact herbicide (glyphosate / RoundUp) ahead of planting once weeds green up, following label instructions. If field has little history of broadleaf or grass competition, a contact herbicide may not be needed.

#### Weed Management (generally early May to mid-June)

Some weeds in a wildlife food plot can provide additional cover and food, but too many weeds will compete with your food plot reducing or even eliminating yields. Your site should be weed free at the time of planting (see site prep).

• DO NOT SPRAY WITH CONTACT HERBICIDE (glyphosate / Roundup) ONCE ESTABLISHED. If sprayed, it will die.

# **Planting** (generally mid-April to mid-June)

Disk field before planting (unless no-tilling), incorporating fertilizer and nutrients (lime, etc.) per soil test results, or fertilize at planting. To improve yield, consider broadcasting 80-100 pounds of actual nitrogen (175-220 #s of 46-0-0) per acre 6 to 8 weeks after planting. Soils should be well drained (not wet). Do NOT overplant!

- Bird, Buck, & Brood Food can be no-till drilled or broadcasted.
- If broadcasting, incorporate into soil by dragging, cultipacking or lightly disking. Rolling seed bed after planting will increase germination.