Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever

Habitat Information Sheet #6

Rooster Booster (aka Winter Survival)

Signature Series Food Plot

General Description

Rooster Booster creates divers feeding habitat for a suite of your favorite wildlife. This early maturing mix is heavy on sorghums, with plenty of corn, sunflower, buckwheat and German millet. The wide range of components ensures heavy use by a multitude of wildlife through the fall hunting season and harsh winter.

Target Species / Wildlife Value

Great food for deer, turkeys, pheasant, quail, dove and other wildlife. Built to outlast corn-only food plots in deer country, but still provide food value to multiple species. Our most popular diverse mix in the Midwest and Great Lakes areas.

Timeline

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

Planting Rates and Spacing

A 28 lb bag plants 3 acres and is best established using a broadcast seeder.

Contains

An proprietary blend of grain sorghums, corn, sunflowers, buckwheat and millets.

Weed Management Options

Glyphosate (Roundup, etc) as a pre-emergent ONLY.

Similar PFQF Signature Series Blends

The new and improved Rooster Booster mix combines components from the previous versions of Rooster Booster and Winter Survival mixes.

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General Planting Instructions

Site Preparation (generally late April to early-May)
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.

A soil test is the only way to determine fertilizer, nutrient and pH adjustment needs. Soil pH for grain-based crops is typically between 5.8 and 7.0.

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. Heavily disk the field 10 days after spraying, and prior to planting.

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) POST EMERGENCE. If sprayed, it will die.
- Your best weed control option is to do a good job of control and prevention ahead of planting with contact herbicides and tillage.
- General herbicide recommendations (ALWAYS FOLLOW LABEL):
    - Pre-Plant or Pre-Emergent
        - Glyphosate (Roundup) is a non-selective herbicide with no soil residual weed control. It may be applied before planting or at planting before crop emergence to control actively growing weeds.
        - Wide spectrum grass/broadleaf herbicides applied pre-emergence or post-emergence may affect some of the plants in this mix.
    - Post-Emergent – this mix contains both broadleaved and grass-like components making chemical weed control challenging. No post-emergent herbicides are recommended.

Planting (generally early-May to mid-June)
Disk field before planting, incorporating fertilizer and nutrients (lime, etc.) per soil test results, or fertilize at planting. If not testing soil, add 60-100 pounds actual nitrogen per acre (200#s of Ammonium Nitrate). Soil temperature at planting should be 60-65 degrees or warmer. Soils should be well drained (not wet). Plant within 24 hours of fertilization and disking.

- No-till or conventional row planters or grain drills are not recommended due to the varying seed sizes.
- When broadcasting, recommended seeding rates 8 pounds per acre (3 acres per bag). Broadcast then cover seed with 1 – 1.5 inches of soil via dragging, cultipacking or lightly disking crosswise to last disking. Rolling seed bed after planting will increase germination.