



Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever  
**Habitat Information Sheet #3**

## **Covey Rise**

### **Signature Series Food Plot**

#### **General Description**

It's not just for quail. Covey Rise is a mix of 3 to 5-foot heavy grain-bearing sorghums with bright fall colors, super food value & great habitat structure! It creates great hunting habitat, and upland birds love it. Covey Rise won't get cleaned out by big game, but deer and turkeys happily dine on the mild white and cream sorghums when conditions get tough.



#### **Target Species / Wildlife Value**

This blend of heavy grain bearing sorghums is designed to provide excellent winter food and reliable cover for wildlife throughout the Midwest, Great Lakes and Great Plains states. Pheasants and quail will gladly feast on its high yielding seeds, but deer will also eat some of the varieties. Its medium height of 3-5 foot also provides a great hunting experience where bird dogs and safe shooting can be enjoyed.

#### **Timeline**

Generally, conduct site prep in late April to early May. Typically plant early May to mid-June when soil temps reach 65°.

#### **Planting Rates**

A 25 lb bag plants 4-5 acres (drilled, planted or broadcast).

#### **Contains**

A proprietary blend of five intermediate grain sorghums including white and cream varieties attractive to deer.

#### **Weed Management Options**

Pre-emergent (Concep-treated: s-metolachlor or s-metolachlor + atrazine). Post-emergent (2,4-D or quinclorac). Always follow label instructions.

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

This blend includes the primary components from our previous Covey Rise blend as well as some preferred deer varieties from our old White Lightning blend. Early Longtail Milo is another all grain sorghum blend, but is shorter and consists only of early maturing varieties.

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Call 866-914-7373 with questions

# Covey Rise Signature Series Food Plot

## 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.

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. Soil pH for grain-based food plot crops should generally range from 5.8 to 7.0. Proper pH is critical in order for fertilizer to be effective.

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 (unless you plan to no-till).

### **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.
- Pre-Emergent – this mix is safened with CONCEP making chemical weed control simple.
  - Apply Dual (s-metolachlor or similar grass/broadleaf herbicide) as a pre-emergent (shallow preplant incorporated is best – incorporate into top 2 inches of soil within 2 weeks of planting). DO NOT apply if crop has emerged. Dual is primarily an annual grass herbicide with some control of small-seeded broadleaf weeds such as pigweeds / waterhemp. Always follow label instructions when applying herbicides to control weeds. Restricted use herbicides may only be applied with required permitting. If broadleaf weeds are a particular concern,
  - May consider Bicep Lite II Magnum (s-metolachlor + atrazine) and offers broader broadleaf control. Note atrazine has carryover concerns so only use if food plot will be sorghum or corn in following year. Consult a crop specialist for more herbicide suggestions.
- Post-Emergent
  - 2,4-D can be used to control some broadleaf weeds. Erratic on pigweed in dry conditions, poor control of kochia. Apply when crop is 5-12 inches high from soil to tip of whorl leaf. Marginal crop tolerance – best at the early stage.
  - Paramount (quinclorac) can be used for foxtail control. Some activity on annual broadleaf weeds such as kochia and lambsquarter. Apply from emergence to 12-inch sorghum. Avoid drift.

### **Planting** (generally early May to mid-June)

Disk field before planting (unless no-tilling), incorporating fertilizer and nutrients (lime, etc.) per soil test results, or fertilize at planting. If not testing soil, 300 pounds of 19-19-19 per acre. 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. Soil temperature at planting should be 65 degrees or warmer (warmer than corn or soybeans). Soils should be well drained (not wet). Plant within 24 hours of fertilizing. Do NOT overplant!

- For no-till or conventional row planters or grain drills, plant with 15 to 30 inch spacings. Seed sorghum at 1 to 1.5 inch depth. Recommended seeding rates should be about 5 pounds per acre (4-5 acres per bag).
- If broadcasting, recommended seeding rates for sorghum 10-15 pounds per acre (2-3 acres per bag). Broadcast then incorporate into soil by dragging, cultipacking or lightly disking. Rolling seed bed after planting will increase germination.

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