



Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever
Habitat Information Sheet #4

Winter Shield

Signature Series Food Plot



General Description

Winter Shield (AKA the Nebraska Mix) is loaded with high-yielding forage and grain sorghums and millets to provide the critical energy needed to pull your birds through the toughest winters. It creates among the best winter cover and food available for pheasants and quail. It will increase your birds' survival prospects, while providing a haven for other wildlife.

Target Species / Wildlife Value

Ideal for pheasants and quail across their range and millets are also attractive to doves.

Timeline

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

Planting Rates and Spacing

A 25 lb bag plants 4-5 acres (planted or drilled in rows), 3 acres if broadcast.

Contains

A proprietary blend of four grain sorghums, six forage sorghums and millets.

Weed Management Options

Glyphosate (Roundup, etc) as a pre-emergent ONLY. Seed is NOT Safened. Post Emergent (2,4-D). Always follow label instructions.

Similar PFQF Signature Series Blends

Blizzard Buster has both grain and forage sorghums. While it lacks the millet component, it is Concep-treated and includes white and cream sorghums attractive to deer. The Western Food and Cover Mix includes the components found in Winter Shield and also includes sunflowers, sudan grass and sweet clover.

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Questions? call 866-914-7373

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General Planting Instructions

Site Preparation (generally 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.

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 May)

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.
- This seed is NOT Safened – your best weed control is good site prep and prevention.
- 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.
 - 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 early stage.

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, 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 fertilizing. Do NOT overplant!

- For no-till or conventional row planters or grain drills, plant with 15 to 30" spacings. Seed at 1 to 1.5 inch depth. Recommended seeding rates should be about 5-6 pounds per acre (4-5 acres per bag).
- If broadcasting, recommended seeding rates is 8-9 pounds per acre (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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