



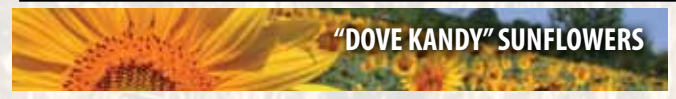













# Food Plot Guide



*Signature Series*  
Food and Cover Mixes

| GRAIN FOOD PLOTS                                                                                                              | COMPONENTS                                                                                                                                                | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>BLIZZARD BUSTER MIX</b></p>            | <p>Specific mixture of five grain and four distinct forage sorghums. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                                                    | <p>Blizzard Buster is the 800-pound gorilla of winter cover and food mixes. This blend of early grain and forage sorghums provides maximum shelter and food for game birds and other wildlife in areas with tough winters. Specially designed to create a food-rich, dense cover, it provides both winter habitat and food when established in large plots. Plant it next to your existing winter cover to enhance its character and to improve survival. A 25 lb. bag of this special PF formulation plants 4-5 acres that can be established with standard planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders. Plant each spring at 5-6 lbs per acre when soil temperatures warm to 60 degrees.</p>                                                                                                                                          |
|  <p><b>COVEY RISE MIX</b></p>                 | <p>Specific mixture of five distinct grain sorghums with a wide area of adaptation. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                                     | <p>Covey Rise is a mix of 3 to 5 foot, heavy grain-bearing sorghums, with bright fall colors. This blend provides super food value &amp; great habitat structure! It is the most eye-pleasing winter food and cover available for birds, and creates great hunting habitat. Pheasants and quail love it. And, if you are trying to conserve winter food for your birds, Covey Rise is a bit less attractive to deer and turkeys that can clean out food plots. Big game, however, will happily dine on Covey Rise when conditions get tough, and other food sources are exhausted!! A 25 lb. bag of this exclusive PF formulation plants 4-5 acres, and Covey Rise can be established with standard planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders. Plant each spring at 5-6 lbs per acre when ground temperatures warm to 60 degrees.</p> |
|  <p><b>EARLY LONGTAIL MILO</b></p>            | <p>Early maturing grain sorghum with a wide area of adaptation. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                                                         | <p>Short growing seasons are no longer a barrier to good food production for game birds and other wildlife. Early Longtail Milo is a short stature, very early maturity grain sorghum that provides a heavy seed crop in as little as 85 days in normal growing conditions. It is wonderful food and escape cover for birds. Longtail Milo makes great hunting habitat that affords maximum visibility of your bird dogs while working cover. A 25 lb. bag plants 4-5 acres, and it can be established with standard planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders. Seed each year in the spring when ground temperatures reach 60 degrees, at 5-6 lbs per acre.</p>                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  <p><b>WINTER SHIELD MIX</b></p>              | <p>Specific mixture of four distinct grain sorghums, six forage sorghums and two millets for a diverse plant community. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p> | <p>Winter Shield (also known as Nebraska Mix) is a proven success in enhancing the winter survival of wildlife across the nation for more than 10 years! This blend is loaded with heavy grain-yielding forage sorghums, grain sorghums and millets to provide the critical energy needed to pull your birds through the toughest winters. Winter Shield provides some of the best winter cover and food available for pheasants and quail, and will increase your birds' survival prospects, while providing a haven for other wildlife. A single 25 lb. bag will plant 4-5 acres, and it can be established with planters, grain drills or broadcast seeders. Plant each spring at 5-6 lbs per acre when soil temperatures warm to 60 degrees.</p>                                                                                    |
|  <p><b>"DOVE KANDY" SUNFLOWERS</b></p>        | <p>Specific mixture of diverse maturing sunflowers. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                                                                     | <p>Sunflowers rank first among the favorite foods of doves (and other wildlife!) and Dove Kandy Sunflowers drive doves, game birds, and songbirds wild!! These small, black-seeded, high oil varieties are chock-full of energy. They are just the ticket to draw in doves to early fall shooting fields. A 25 lb. bag plants 4-5 acres, and can be established with planters, or broadcast seeders.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  <p><b>WINTER SURVIVAL MIX</b></p>           | <p>Specific formula of corn, grain sorghums, forage sorghums, buckwheat and sunflowers. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                                 | <p>Winter Survival Mix provides excellent cover and food for wildlife in areas with tough winter weather. A blend of early varieties, this mix is heavy on high energy corn, rounded out with sorghums, sunflowers, and buckwheat. It is very attractive to upland game birds, deer, turkeys, songbirds and a wide range of other wildlife. This mix of grain-bearing plants is best broadcast onto a prepared, well fertilized seedbed and harrowed in. A 25 lb. bag will plant 2 acres of fabulous food plot.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  <p><b>ROOSTER BOOSTER MIX</b></p>          | <p>Specific formula of corn, grain sorghums, buckwheat and millets. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                                                     | <p>Rooster Booster provides feeding habitat for deer, turkeys and upland wildlife, and generally lasts longer than corn-only food plots. It provides a diverse cover and food plot area for pheasants, quail and other wildlife. This early maturing mix is heavy on sorghums, with plenty of corn, buckwheat and german millet. Broadcast onto a prepared, well fertilized seedbed and harrow it in. A 28 lb. bag plants 3 acres.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  <p><b>WESTERN FOOD &amp; COVER MIX</b></p> | <p>Specific formula of sunflower, forage sorghum, grain sorghum, sudan grass, sweet clover and millets. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                 | <p>A mixture designed for drier climates that uses short maturity varieties. Western Mix can also be used as a two year cover plot. This exclusive blend of sunflowers, forage and grain sorghums, sudan grass, sweet clover and millets is best planted with a broadcast seeder. A 25 lb. bag will produce 3 to 4 acres of winter cover, and a very effective food plot. And in the second year, it becomes great brood-rearing cover.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  <p><b>DOVE &amp; QUAIL MIX</b></p>         | <p>Specific formula of sunflowers, grain sorghums, forage sorghums and various millets. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                                 | <p>Dove and Quail Mix is for more than just these two great game birds—this is a diverse food plot habitat. This combination of sunflowers, grain sorghums and millets provide a great food source for doves, and also provide food and cover for quail, pheasants, songbirds and other wildlife. A 25 lb. bag will produce 3 to 4 acres of great winter cover and will provide brood cover for two years if left standing.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| GREEN BROWSE FOOD PLOTS                                                                                                      | COMPONENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>CLOVER &amp; MORE MIX</b></p>         | <p>Specific formula of alfalfa, rapeseed, alsike, arrowleaf, berseem, crimson, ladino and red clover. Enhanced with Legume Inoculants and MicroNutrients.</p>                                                                              | <p>Clover &amp; More is a unique combination of high quality, long lasting clovers, alfalfa and other components that produce superior browsing habitat for deer and turkeys and brooding areas for upland game bird chicks. This high protein blend of legumes is very palatable—deer find it irresistible! Bird &amp; Buck Clover &amp; More has been field tested with consistently excellent results. It also makes a great planting for spring firebreaks. Bird &amp; Buck Clover &amp; More can be drilled or broadcast seeded. Plant very early in the spring or in the fall for best results.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|  <p><b>WHITETAIL &amp; GAMEBIRD MIX</b></p>  | <p>Specific formula of alfalfa, rapeseed, alsike, arrowleaf, berseem, crimson, ladino and red clover, partridge peas, annual ryegrass, bluegrass, switchgrass, timothy and millet. Enhanced with Legume Inoculants and MicroNutrients.</p> | <p>Whitetail &amp; Gamebird Mix is a combination habitat product specially designed by PF/QF Field Staff to produce superior habitat for deer, turkeys and upland birds. The browse components in our exclusive formulation will attract and increase your deer and turkey numbers. At the same time, it will benefit nesting and brood rearing pheasants and quail. Each 25 lb. bag provides 2-3 acres of habitat, can be broadcast seeded or planted with a grain drill, and is best planted in the spring.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  <p><b>DEER KANDY GREEN BROWSE MIX</b></p>   | <p>Specific mixture of all legumes: alfalfa, alsike, ladino, medium red clover and partridge pea. Enhanced with Legume Inoculants and MicroNutrients.</p>                                                                                  | <p>Deer Kandy is a great green browse mix for deer &amp; turkeys that also creates an insect haven for pheasant and quail broods. This blend of legumes includes superior varieties of alfalfa, alsike, ladino, medium red clover and partridge pea, making this a very durable and long lasting green browse mix with great attraction for deer. Plant in very early spring, or in late summer or fall for best results. Best management is to mow your green browse/legume food plots in mid to late summer and allow re-growth for fall. Mow each year to maintain a long lasting stand!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  <p><b>WHITETAIL FORAGE BRASSICA MIX</b></p> | <p>Prescription formula of hybrid rapeseed, kale, two forage turnips, hybrid forage turnip and canola. Enhanced with MicroNutrients.</p>                                                                                                   | <p>Whitetail Forage Brassica Mix is a forage brassica blend specially designed to produce superior feeding habitat for deer and turkeys. This mixture of annual rape, canola, pasja, kale and deer turnips is irresistible to whitetails and turkeys. The high sugar content in the mature leaves will attract deer from a long distance, and it will keep them where you want them. Forage protein levels in PF/QF Whitetail Forage Brassica Mix can reach over 38%, satisfying the browsing desires of whitetails while providing the nutrients they need. Whitetail Forage Brassica Mix is a fast growing blend, reaching up to 24 inches in height just 45 days after planting, and the browsed leaves are quickly replaced by new ones. Adding this fall forage mix to your food plot complex will maximize your chances of taking a nice buck this fall. It is best seeded in late summer or early fall.</p> |
|  <p><b>WINTER BROWSE MIX</b></p>             | <p>Prescription formula of small grain and rapeseed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Bird &amp; Buck Winter Browse Mix is a well proportioned blend of small grain greens and rape that will provide deer with excellent forage in the fall and winter months. This deer browsing area creates attractive strutting grounds for big toms in the spring and brood rearing habitat for upland game birds in early summer. Seed 40 lbs/acre, and step out of the way when the deer come running. Plant in late summer or early fall with a grain drill or broadcast seeder.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



## FOOD PLOTS – A CRITICAL FACTOR FOR WILDLIFE ON YOUR FARM

### GRAIN-BASED FOOD PLOTS

High energy, grain-based food plots (including corn, sorghum, millets, etc.) are an essential wildlife management practice for game birds and other wildlife on private lands. Regardless of winter severity, it makes good sense to provide additional food and cover for crisis situations, to use food plots to increase habitat diversity, and to create habitat for hunting and wildlife viewing. Where primary winter cover is limited, planting grain-based mixes (like sorghums) will provide great cover structure in addition to food, and creating larger plots will improve shelter for your birds. That will help you achieve your primary objective—to bring your hens through the winter in peak condition for breeding, where improved spring body weight helps maximize chick production.

### BROWSE MIXES

The Bird and Buck Line of green browse mixes from Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever provides forage that will help attract big game to your farm and that, in some cases, can also provide high quality brood habitat for upland birds. These mixes are a magnet for wildlife and will attract whitetails and other species to your property and hold them there. PF/QF browse mixes are comprised of specially developed protein and energy rich forage that deer and turkey find irresistible. In addition, Bird and Buck forage mixes create a leafy, insect rich structure that is important for game bird chicks.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**WHY DO I NEED FOOD PLOTS ON MY FARM?** High quality grain food plots play a critical role in the relationship between food, cover, movement and winter bird mortality. The logic is simple. Locating well-planned food and cover plots adjacent to heavy roosting cover provides a dependable source of high-energy food. Having food right next door to winter cover helps establish safe foraging patterns, and minimizes movements – so predation and weather losses are reduced.

**WHAT MAKES PF/QF MIXES SPECIAL?** Our biologists have developed PF/QF grain and forage mixes to provide the food and cover that the wildlife on your farm need. Through continual improvement of our products, we have formulated very specific blends that are adaptable to most growing conditions, and that maximize benefits for your wildlife.

**ARE SPECIALIZED MIXES WORTH THE EXTRA COST?** Seed cost will likely be the smallest expense in your overall food plot spending, yet it is the foundation of your effort to improve food resources for wildlife. Buy the very best seed that you can for your food plots. PF/QF food plot products come to you after extensive development and research, and following years of successful establishment on farms across the country. And they come to you with the full backing of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, two of the most respected private conservation organizations in the nation.

**MUST I USE HERBICIDES?** Weed competition is the most serious threat your food plot will face. Thus, we recommend some sort of herbicide treatment. Food plots planted without weed control will have highly variable results. Weed problems can be addressed by tillage, chemical suppression, or a combination of both. A few weeds in a food plot will actually improve the diversity of the area for wildlife. However, severe weed competition that causes the primary planting to fail can waste your food plot investment, and puts your wildlife in a bad position when winter arrives. Pay attention to weed control recommendations on the bag for best results for your planting.

**DO I NEED FERTILIZER?** Food plots are a crop, and you should fertilize just as you would your garden. Nutrients in your planting area are easily assessed before the planting season with a simple soil test (farm co-ops, and/or USDA offices routinely do this at low cost), and you should amend the soil accordingly before you plant. Rotating

grain food plots into areas previously established in legume browse may save money on nitrogen, but nearly all food plots need some supplemental nutrients. Legume food plots do not need nitrogen, but normally require some soil supplements to optimize the stand. Several PF/QF mixes carry micronutrient seed coatings to help our seed to get a jump on early growth. Even so, primary fertilization is almost always a must-do operation.

**HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH MIXES ARE RIGHT FOR MY FARM?** Examine your habitat objectives for your farm, what you would like to accomplish for wildlife, and what your desires are for hunting and wildlife viewing. Look particularly at winter food and cover conditions. If this habitat is limited, you will need grain food plots to assist game birds, and may benefit other wildlife by establishing browse plots, as well.

**WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT?** Take cues from agricultural operations occurring in your area. While this will give you a general idea when to plant, not all types of seed can be planted at the same time. Detailed planting instructions are on the back of each PF/QF food plot mix. Read those guidelines carefully and follow them exactly.

**WHAT ABOUT PLANTING MY PLOT?** Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever grain and green browse food plot mixes can be established with standard planters, grain drills, or with broadcast seeders mounted on a tractor, ATV or pickup truck. Complete planting instructions are on each bag. If you do not have your own equipment, it can often be rented from USDA Offices, local implement dealers, and wildlife agencies. PF/QF habitat specialists, private contractors, or a neighbor also may be able to assist you in planting your food plot. For more information on food plot design and other considerations consult the Pheasants Forever Essential Habitat Guide, and/or talk to a PF Habitat Specialist near you.

**WHAT'S THE BEST DESIGN FOR MY WINTER FOOD PLOTS?** Grain food plots should restrict unnecessary travel, and provide high quality food and supplemental winter cover. Birds crossing hostile territory for food invite losses from predation and weather, so two critical design factors include locating food plots next to winter cover, and adequate size (3-4 acres or larger is best). Blocks will be preferable to linear plantings, and placement on the windward side of winter cover improves that habitat. If winter cover is scarce, 10-acre plantings of grain mixes with heavy leaf structure can provide all the food and shelter that birds need. In general, green browse plots will provide no winter cover for most upland birds, but will provide foraging areas for deer.

**HOW LARGE SHOULD MY FOOD PLOT BE?** Unfortunately we cannot predict when wildlife will most need supplemental winter food resources, so plan grain food plots for the worst case weather scenario, each and every year. Don't create a project that will be buried by the first blizzard. Your food plots will be used by many kinds of wildlife. Deer and turkeys consume a lot of grain and will exhaust small food patches well before winter ends. Thus, larger food plots (3-10 acres) are always most desirable. Select a food plot mix based on the cover and food values you need, and carefully assess the critical factors of size and location for your farm.

**HOW LONG WILL MY FOOD PLOT LAST?** In general, a grain based food plot will last only a single season (particularly if deer use it heavily) and almost without fail you will need to re-establish this kind of plot annually. In rare instances of low wildlife use, the grain from one year will carry over to the next on the stalks. Allowing a plot like this to grow up into annual weeds provides excellent brood habitat. Green browse food plots (blends of clovers, alfalfa, etc.) may last several years or may need to be re-planted each year (combination leafy forage/root crops like turnips).

**WHAT OTHER FACTORS SHOULD I CONSIDER?** Food plots alone are not going to “bring back the birds”. Well-placed food patches can help bring more hens through winter in better condition. At that point, however, the other habitat you have established on your farm (nesting cover, brood rearing habitat, etc.) will play the leading role. Be sure you focus on establishing and managing those important areas for wildlife, as well.



## THE HABITAT ORGANIZATIONS

**NOT A PF AND/OR QF MEMBER?** You should be. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever rank high among the most respected conservation organizations in North America. The reason is simple. We have a unique, home-grown structure comprised of local chapters raising funds, and investing in local habitat projects and conservation education for youth. Each day, our professional staff and thousands of volunteers work to assure a bright future for wildlife and the future generations that will enjoy our natural resources. Please consider joining us in those efforts, and call or visit the website below.

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