

LA CROSSE SEED FOOD PLOT GUIDE 2026



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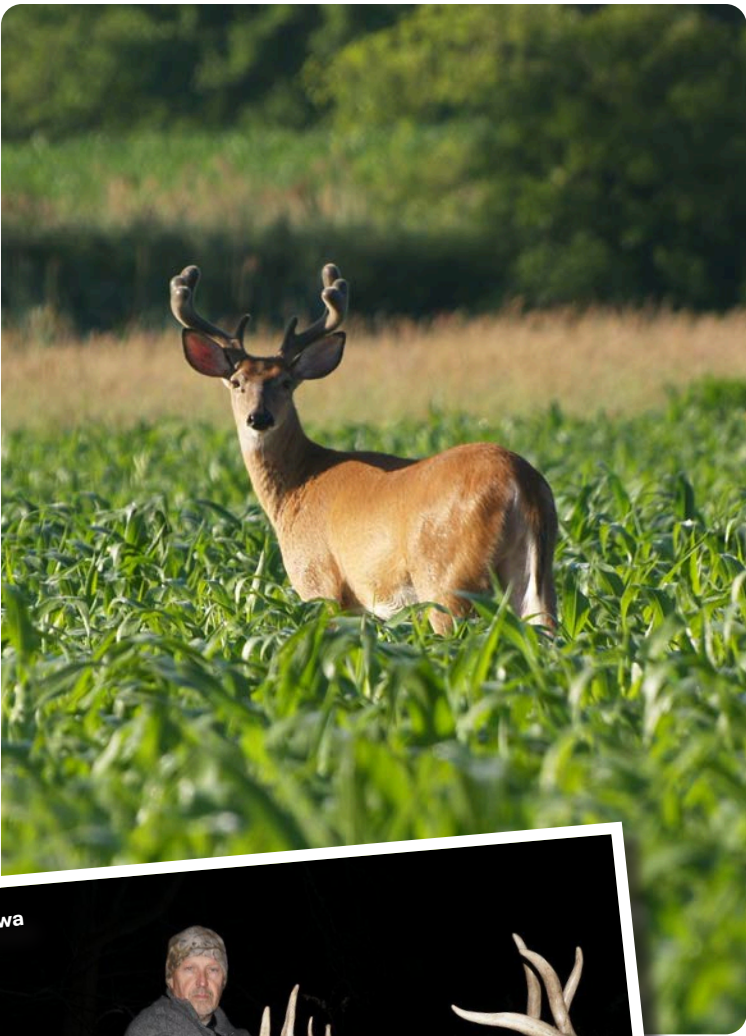
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Founded in 1980, Deer Creek Seed was a seed company with a reputation for exceptional seeds, customer service and agronomic support. That legacy lives on today with Deer Creek Seed by DLF, a premier wildlife seed brand in North America.

Deer Creek Seed Brand distributed by La Crosse Seed offers wildlife food plot mixes comprised of the highest quality seed, specially formulated for maximum food availability for each unique need.



“Consistently taking world-class whitetails begins with two qualities: genetics and nutrition. Our neighborhood has the genetics and La Crosse Seed provides us with the nutrition. Quality seed with excellent germination and strong vigor gives our food plots that extra edge by providing the necessary nutrients to grow the maximum amount of horn the genetics allow.”

Bob H., Central Iowa



GROWING WITH DLF

Our customers demand a lot from their seed: yield, forage quality, winterhardiness and disease resistance. That is why we invest heavily in global R&D and Product Management. For more than 30 years, DLF R&D and Product Management have optimized forage grass and legume varieties ideal to local climatic and environmental conditions to seed the green future. We aim to deliver sustainable solutions with the potential to increase productivity of land and livestock, sequester carbon and reduce emissions in the supply chain.

Touchet, Washington USA



Port Hope, Ontario Canada



West Salem, Wisconsin USA



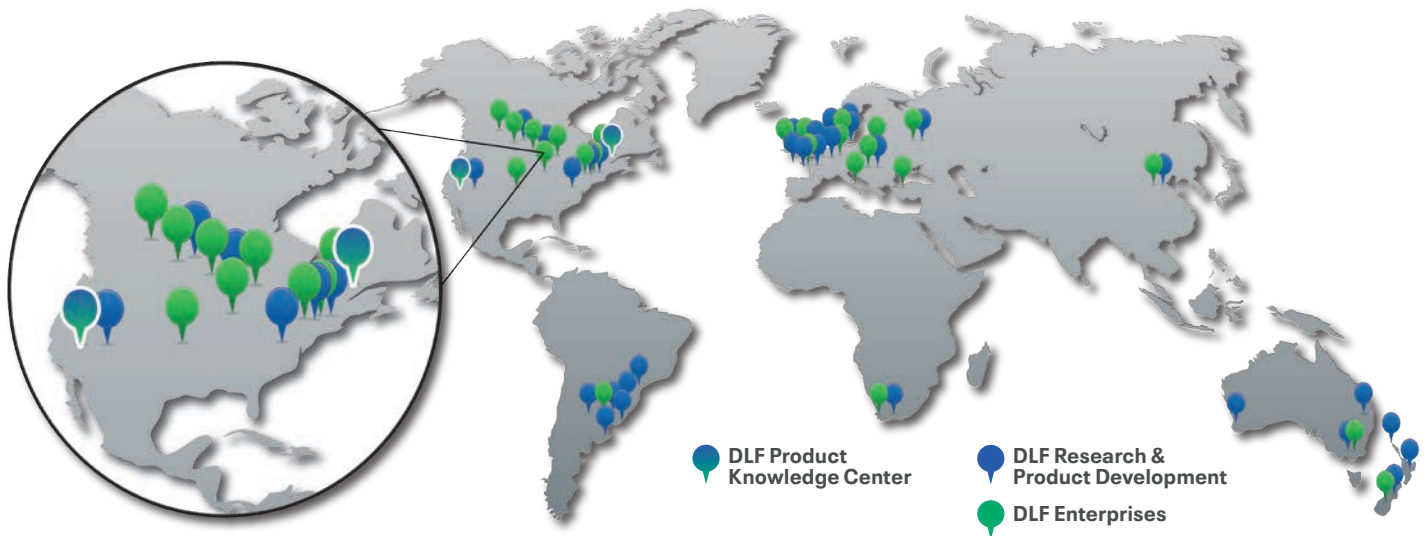
Philomath, Oregon USA



Berry, Kentucky USA



THE WORLD OF DLF



WE ENRICH LAND, LIFE, AND PEOPLE THROUGH SEEDS AND SCIENCE

EMBRACING CHANGE AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

At DLF, we believe in the transformative power of seeds and science to create a better future. As a farmer-owned cooperative with deep roots, expert knowhow, and global presence, we are uniquely positioned to lead the change in addressing the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss through our product solutions and their productivity.

Our purpose "We enrich land, life and people through seeds and science" captures the heart of who we are and what we aim to achieve.

A LEGACY OF COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

Founded on the democratic traditions of cooperation, DLF has grown from a local Danish seed producer to a global leader in forage and turf seed. Guided by the collective dedication of our farmer-owners and suppliers, we bring locally adapted seed solutions to over 100 countries. Our heritage ensures business resilience, and our forward-looking mindset drives innovation.

We see the world's challenges not as obstacles, but as opportunities to make a difference. By blending science with sustainability, we aim to create products and solutions that go beyond profitability, contributing to ecosystems, economies, and communities.

SEEDS AS CATALYSTS FOR A GREEN TRANSITION

Seeds are a catalyst of the green transition. They are simple, essential, scalable, and regenerative. Through plant breeding and scientific research, our seeds work both above and below the ground to deliver dual-purpose solutions that address critical issues.

Above the ground innovative seeds enable biomass production and quality of leaves, enhance biodiversity and tolerance to disease, and stabilize landscapes through erosion control.

Below the ground our seeds enable carbon capture, improve soil health, reduce nutrient loss, and foster stable, resilient ecosystems. As global market leaders, we invest in future growth levers to build seeds for a changing climate and use our expertise to unfold future opportunities for businesses and people.

ENRICHING LAND, LIFE, AND PEOPLE

DLF's commitment to innovation enriches ecosystems and enhances quality of life for all living organisms. By leveraging our local knowledge and global presence, we bring green surroundings and climate-resilient solutions to people and communities.

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION












Our purpose is grounded in DLF's cooperative model and a deep-rooted belief that collaboration is the path forward. By uniting farmers, scientists, and businesses, we unlock the full potential of seeds to drive positive change. Together, we are more than a seed supplier – we are partners in transformation, empowering our sector and communities to thrive.

A FUTURE GROUNDED IN PURPOSE

DLF's long-term purpose strengthens us as a company with a significant societal and environmental impact. The phrase "We enrich land, life and people through seeds and science" reflects our commitment to creating a better future. It is a story of passion, potential, and positivity.

As we continue to lead the seed sector, we remain dedicated to bridge the past and the future, tradition and innovation, local presence, and global impact.

**WE WORK WITH NATURE AND SCIENCE
TO BRING RESILIENT SEED SOLUTIONS
FOR LAND, LIFE AND PEOPLE.**

NAME	BRASSICAS	LEGUMES	GRASSES	FORBS	DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL/ PERENNIAL	SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE)	BAG SIZE (LBS)
8847 GT1 FORAGE SOYBEANS					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring/fall planted annual species offering spring/summer/fall food source • Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun • Glyphosate tolerant, late maturity soybean stays green longer • Increased plant height 	ANNUAL	140,000 Seeds/Acre (1" Depth)	140,000 Seed Count
BUCKWHEAT					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick growing broadleaf, grows well in dry/summer conditions • Produces leafy above ground biomass for forage and weed suppression • Aids in settling soil in seed bed preparation for next crop 	ANNUAL	50 Lbs Per Acre (½" Depth)	50
BULLS-EYE DEER TURNIPS					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early fall planted annual turnip blend offering early/late fall food source • Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun • Turnips will remain green until 10°F • Optimally planted 6 - 8 weeks prior to killing frost, sugars will flush vegetative growth after frost, making it an appealing food source • Unique blend of turnips provide extensive above & below ground growth 	ANNUAL	2 Lbs Per ¼ Acre (¼" Depth)	2
DEER CANDY SUGAR BEETS					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late spring planted annual offering early/late fall food source • Performs well on medium to heavy, well drained soils in full sun • Provides high energy food source from vegetation & root 	ANNUAL	2 - 3 (Drilled) 8 (Brdcast) (½" Depth)	1
FORAGE COLLARDS					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring/fall planted annual offering summer/late fall food source • Thrives in drought & remains green in below 0°F conditions • Superior forage quality with high biomass 	ANNUAL	5 (Drilled) 8 (Brdcast) (¼" Depth)	50
FORAGE KALE					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early fall planted annual offering early/late fall food source • Kale will remain green until 10°F • Short stem, high leaf-to-stem ratio 	ANNUAL	3 (Drilled) 5 (Brdcast) (¼" Depth)	50
PLOT SPIKE® FORAGE OATS					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring/fall planted annual species offering spring/summer/fall food source • Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun • Late maturing forage oat selected for cold tolerance • Easy to establish, producing large amounts of forage 	ANNUAL	100 - 120 (1" Depth)	50
TITAN™ FORAGE RAPESEED					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new generation rape x kale interspecies cross with high yielding multi-graze, intermediate height rape • Excellent regrowth potential suitable for summer, autumn and winter feed • Highest animal preference rape cultivar available with aphid and virus tolerance 	ANNUAL	3.5 (Drilled) 4 (Brdcast) (¼" Depth)	50
VIVANT FORAGE BRASSICA					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick establishment & vigorous regrowth, even under close feeding • Different than turnips, all the energy of the plant is contained in the leaves • Low bolt/high yielding leafy hybrid brassica - high digestability 	ANNUAL	4 (Drilled) 6 (Brdcast) (¼" Depth)	50
WILDLIFE GRAIN SORGHUM (DWARF TYPE)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer planted annual offering cover for upland game birds, migratory birds & deer • Drought tolerant - performs in light to heavy soil types & light shade to full sun • Quick to establish, requires 60 - 65°F soil temps for planting/germination • Food source for various bird species later in fall/winter 	ANNUAL	6 - 8 (Drilled) 8 - 10 (Brdcast) (1" Depth)	50
WILDLIFE SUNFLOWER (PEREDOVIK TYPE)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring planted annual offering cover & food source for upland game birds • Drought tolerant - performs in light to heavy soil types & light shade to full sun • Food source for various bird species later in fall/winter 	ANNUAL	6 - 8 (Drilled) 8 - 10 (Brdcast) (1" Depth)	50



NATIVE GRASSES & WILDFLOWERS

La Crosse Seed conservation seed, including native grass and wildflower mixes, pair clean, quality native seed with sound agronomics and management support to ensure the right product and right approach for your conservation or CRP planting. Our conservation seed portfolio includes annual and perennial wildflower pollinator mixes, native grasses, forbs and custom CRP mixes.

A PARTIAL LIST OF NATIVE SEED OPTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH LA CROSSE SEED INCLUDES:

GRASSES

- Big Bluestem
- Blue Grama
- Buffalograss
- Canada Wildrye
- Eastern Gamagrass
- Green Needlegrass
- Indiangrass
- Intermediate Wheatgrass
- Junegrass
- Little Bluestem
- Prairie Cordgrass
- Pubescent Wheatgrass
- Sand Lovegrass
- Sand Dropseed
- Sideoats Grama
- Slender Wheatgrass
- Switchgrass
- Tall Wheatgrass
- Western Wheatgrass

FORBS

- Black-Eyed Susan
- Ox-Eye Sunflower
- Maximilian Sunflower
- Partridge Pea
- Purple Coneflower
- Showy Tick Trefoil
- Wild Bergamot
- Yellow Coneflower

MIXES

- Midwest Wildflower Mix
- Color Iowa Wild Mix
- Knee-High Wildflower Mix
- North American Shade Wildflower Mix
- Native Wildflower Mix for Pollinators
- All Perennial Wildflower Mix
- Upland Native Mix
- Lowland Native Mix (Tall)
- EcoGrass Short Mix
- EcoGrass Tall Mix



CUSTOM CRP MIXING

La Crosse Seed offers custom mixing capabilities to meet any need. Contact us at info@laxseed.com or visit our website to learn more.

			BRASSICAS	LEGUMES	GRASSES	FORBS		ANNUAL/ PERENNIAL		SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE)	BAG SIZE (LBS)	BRASSICAS	LEGUMES	GRASSES	FORBS
	SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE)	BAG SIZE (LBS)													
PERENNIAL MIXES															

HORN HONEY					
PERENNIAL	8* (Drilled)	10 (Brdcast)	5 & 10		

- Spring/fall planted perennial mix offering year-round food source
- Performs well on medium to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Includes high energy legumes that will thrive in various geographical locations
- Chicory will thrive during summer months
- Replaces DC Perennial Plus Clovers

- 25% Orion XL Ladino White Clover
- 25% Red Carpet XL 990 Red Clover
- 25% Intermediate White Clover
- 15% Radium XL Alsike White Clover
- 10% Chicory

*Seed at ¼" Depth



PREMIUM WHITE CLOVERS					
PERENNIAL	8* (Drilled)	10 (Brdcast)	5 & 10		

- Spring/fall/frost planted perennial mix offering year-round food source
- Performs well on medium to heavy soil types in moderate shade to full sun
- Includes high energy legumes that will thrive in various geographical locations
- White clovers will fill in areas of overgraze due to stolon root system

- 25% Radium XL Alsike White Clover
- 25% Dutch White Clover
- 25% Orion XL Ladino White Clover
- 25% Intermediate White Clover

*Seed at ¼" Depth



BEES N BUCKS					
PERENNIAL	10* (Drilled)	12 (Brdcast)	5 & 10		

- Spring/fall planted perennial dual purpose mix offering year-round food source
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- All purpose pollinator to create a bee and pollinator sanctuary if left to flower
- Replaces Deer Country Field and DC Bee Clover

- 25% Premium Brand Alfalfa
- 20% Orion XL Ladino White Clover
- 20% Red Carpet XL 990 Red Clover
- 20% Yellow Blossom Sweet Clover
- 15% Radium XL Alsike White Clover

*Seed at ¼" Depth



NO-TILL WILDLIFE CLOVER					
PERENNIAL	15* (Drilled)	20 - 25 (Brdcast)	5 & 10		

- Spring/fall/frost planted perennial mix offering year-round food source
- Performs well on medium to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Balance of high energy grasses/legumes that will thrive in various geographical locations
- Easy to establish with minimal preparation
- Replaces DC Wildlife Clover Mix/Point Bulider Plus

- 15% Intermediate White Clover
- 15% Radium XL Alsike White Clover
- 15% Med Red Clover
- 15% Orion XL Ladino White Clover
- 15% Dutch White Clover
- 15% Coldsnap® Annual Ryegrass
- 10% High Sugar Perennial Ryegrass

*Seed at ¼" Depth

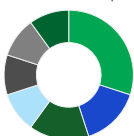


LOGGERS TRAIL MIX					
PERENNIAL	20* (Drilled)	25 (Brdcast)	25		

- Spring/fall planted perennial mix quick to establish and produce cover
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Will persist in low-fertility, acidic, or wet soils and areas with minimal sunlight
- Replaces Deer Country Trail Mix

- 30% Stargrazer XL Tall Fescue
- 15% Coldsnap® Annual Ryegrass
- 15% Orion XL Ladino White Clover
- 10% Radium XL Alsike White Clover
- 10% Creeping Red Fescue
- 10% Intermediate White Clover
- 10% High Sugar Perennial Ryegrass

*Seed at ¼" Depth



DEER CREEK SPECIES OFFERED IN SMALL PACKS (5 LB)		
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LEGUMES	GRASSES	BROADLEAVES
Med Red Clover	Egyptian Wheat	Buckwheat
Alsike Clover	RC Big Rock Switchgrass	Chicory
Berseem Clover		Tillage Radish
Ladino Clover		Rapeseed
Alfalfa PI		Rutabaga
		Sugar Beet
		Peredovik Black Oilseed Sunflower
		Purple Top Turnip



ONLINE RESOURCES

Go to lacrosseseed.com for planting windows and other useful information.

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE)	BAG SIZE (LBS)	BRASSICAS	LEGUMES	GRASSES	FORBS	ANNUAL/ PERENNIAL	SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE)	BAG SIZE (LBS)	BRASSICAS	LEGUMES	GRASSES	FORBS
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ANNUAL / PERENNIAL MIXES

BUCK'S BANQUET

ANNUAL/ PERENNIAL	8* (Drilled)	10 (Brdcast)	5 & 10			
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- Early fall planted annual & perennial species offering early/late fall food source
- For medium to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Clover/chicory remain perennial after brassicas winterkill
- Portion remains green until air temps reach 10 - 15°F
- Optimally planted 6 - 8 weeks prior to killing frost
- Replaces Autumn Buffet

- 20%** Orion XL Ladino White Clover
- 20%** Rapeseed
- 15%** Purple Top Turnips
- 15%** Tillage Radish*
- 10%** Intermediate White Clover
- 10%** Radium XL Alsike White Clover
- 10%** Chicory

*Seed at 1/4" Depth



SPRING GREENS ELITE

ANNUAL/ PERENNIAL	40* (Drilled)	50 (Brdcast)	25				
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- Late spring/summer/fall planted annual/perennial mix offering multi-year food source
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Multiple species for maximum grazing quality & protects soil from nutrient loss

- 10%** Balansa Clover
- 10%** Buckwheat
- 10%** Rapeseed
- 10%** Forage Soybean
- 10%** Intermediate White Clover
- 10%** Med Red Clover
- 10%** Peredovik Black Sunflower
- 10%** Sunn Hemp
- 10%** Green Sugar Sorghum Sudangrass
- 10%** Tetrabana XL Italian Ryegrass

*Seed at 1/4" Depth



BUFFER & BEDDING MIXES

ANNUAL HABITAT HIDE-A-WAY

NEW FORMULA

ANNUAL	10* (Drilled)	10 (Brdcast)	10	
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- Summer annual mix planted as bedding/buffer source
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Quick to establish, requires 60 - 65°F soil temps for planting/germination, annual alternative to Perennial Habitat Hide-A-Way
- Can reach heights up to 8 ft tall
- Replaces DC Silver Screen

- 34%** Summer Select* Forage Sorghum
- 33%** Wildlife Grain Sorghum
- 33%** Egyptian Wheat

*Seed at 1" Depth



PERENNIAL HABITAT HIDE-A-WAY

PERENNIAL	9*	9 & 50		
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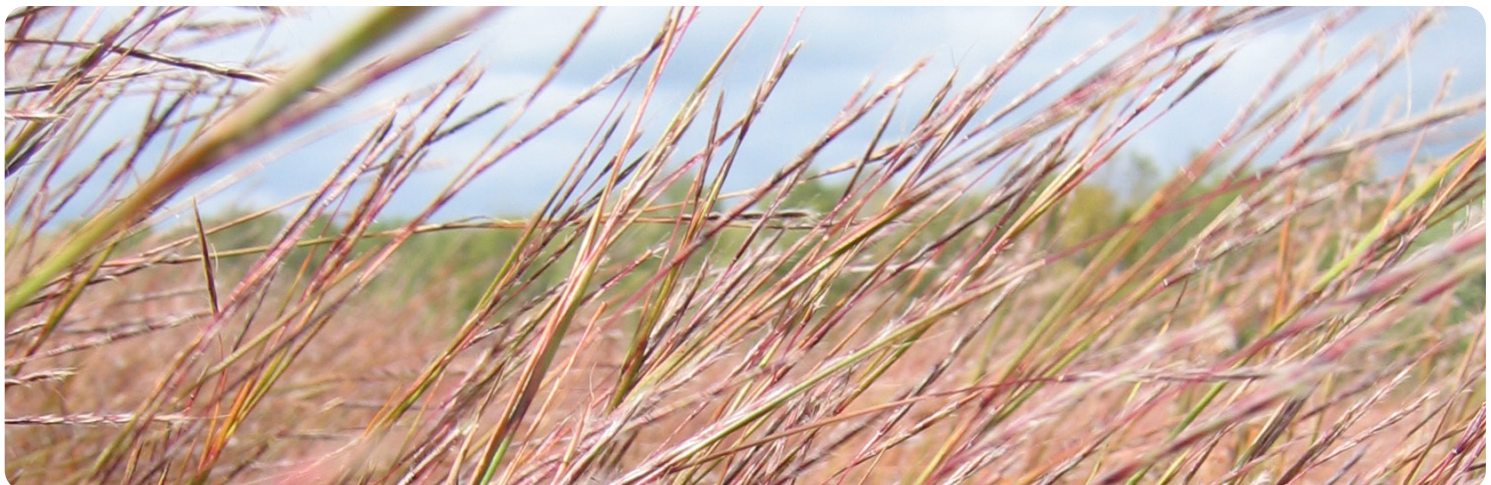
- Spring/fall planted native grass perennial mix offering year-round bedding/buffer source
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Maintenance needed during slow establishment period; alternative to Annual Habitat Hide-A-Way
- Will reach heights up to 8 ft tall

- 34%** Switchgrass
- 33%** Indiangrass
- 33%** Big Bluestem

*Seed at 1/4" Depth



See Natives Guide for establishment guidelines





**DEER CREEK®
SEED**
BY DLF

**SEEDING
RATE
(LBS/ACRE)**

**BAG
SIZE
(LBS)**

BRASSICAS

LEGUMES

GRASSES

FORBS

**ANNUAL/
PERENNIAL**

**SEEDING RATE
(LBS/ACRE)**

**BAG
SIZE
(LBS)**

BRASSICAS

LEGUMES

GRASSES

FORBS

ANNUAL MIXES

QUAD PRO BEAN

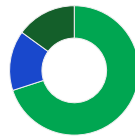
ANNUAL 40* (Drilled) 50 (Brdcast) 25



- Spring/fall planted annual
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Fast growing, high protein mix with forage and vining soybeans
- Matures in approximately 60 days

70% 2 Forage Soybean Varieties
15% Lablab
15% Cowpea

*Seed at 1" Depth



TRIPLE TREAT

ANNUAL 8* (Drilled) 10 (Brdcast) 5



- Spring/fall planted annual clover blend
- Performs well on medium to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Nitrogen fixing and biomass producing mix excellent for plot rotation
- Triple purpose food source, soil health, nitrogen building

40% Balansa Clover
40% Berseem Clover
20% Crimson Clover

*Seed at 1/4" Depth



GAME BIRD MIX

ANNUAL 15* (Drilled) 20-25 (Brdcast) 25



- Late spring/summer planted annual
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Quick to establish, requires 60-65° F soil temps for planting/germination
- Ideal attractant for upland game birds and other avian species

25% Peredovik Black Sunflower
25% Wildlife Grain Sorghum
15% Forage Soybean
10% Buckwheat
10% Japanese Millet
10% Pearl Millet
5% Proso Millet

*Seed at 1/2" Depth



WETLAND WATERFOWL

ANNUAL 15* (Drilled) 20-25 (Brdcast) 25



- Late spring/summer planted annual and perennial blend
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Quick to establish, requires 60-65° F soil temps for planting/germination
- Ideal attractant for waterfowl and other avian species

35% Japanese Millet
20% Wildlife Grain Sorghum
20% Defender 265 Brand Spring Oat
10% Buckwheat
10% Proso Millet
5% Radium XL Alsike Clover

*Seed at 1/4-1/2" Depth



SANDY SURE SHOT

ANNUAL 25* (Drilled) 35 (Brdcast) 25



- Late spring/summer/fall planted annual
- Formulated to persist in light sandy and dryland soil conditions
- Attracts deer and other avian wildlife

35% Peredovik Black Sunflower
30% Forage Soybean
20% Buckwheat
10% Berseem Clover
5% Winfred Forage Brassica

*Seed at 1/2" Depth



SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE)	BAG SIZE (LBS)	BRASSICAS	LEGUMES	GRASSES	FORBS	ANNUAL/ PERENNIAL	SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE)	BAG SIZE (LBS)	BRASSICAS	LEGUMES	GRASSES	FORBS
ANNUAL MIXES												

RUT N READY						HARVEST MOON						
ANNUAL	6* (Drilled)	8 (Brdcast)	4 & 8			ANNUAL	40* (Drilled)	50 (Brdcast)	25			

- Early fall planted annuals offer early/late fall food source
- For light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Brassicas remain green until air temps reach 10 - 15°F
- Optimally planted 6 - 8 weeks prior to killing frost, sugars flush vegetative growth after frost for appealing food source
- Brassicas attract deer early fall & after killing frost
- Replaces DC Brassica Blend & DC Prime Time Brassica

- 30%** Tillage Radish*
- 20%** Rapeseed
- 20%** Purple Top Turnips
- 10%** Forage Kale
- 10%** Vivant Brassica
- 10%** Forage Collards

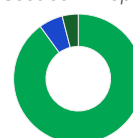
*Seed at 1/4" Depth



- Early fall planted annual species offering early/late fall food source
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Portion remains green until air temps reach 10 - 15°F
- Optimally planted 6 - 8 weeks prior to killing frost
- Replaces DC Succulent Succotash/ Autumn Energy

- 90%** Arctic Brand Forage Oats
- 6%** Tillage Radish*
- 4%** Purple Top Turnips

*Seed at 1/4" Depth

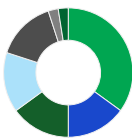


ALL SEASON MIX						BEET & SWEETS						
ANNUAL	50*	25					ANNUAL	8* (Drilled)	10 (Brdcast)	5 & 10		

- Early fall planted annuals offer early/late fall food source
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Winter Rye will overwinter providing additional food source the following spring
- Optimally planted 6-8 weeks prior to killing frost, large biomass production for food source early and into late fall/winter for areas of heavy feeding pressure

- 35%** Guardian® Winter Rye
- 15%** Barley
- 15%** Buckwheat
- 15%** Forage Pea
- 15%** Defender 265 Brand Spring Oats
- 2.5%** Rapeseed
- 2.5%** Forage Turnip

*Seed at 1/4" Depth



- Early fall planted annuals offer early/late fall high sugar food source
- Performs well on light to heavy soil types in light shade to full sun
- Quick to establish brassicas remain green until air temps reach 10 - 15°F
- Optimally planted 6 - 8 weeks prior to killing frost, sugars flush vegetative growth after frost for appealing food source early and into late fall/winter

- 45%** Sugar Beet
- 20%** Swiss Chard
- 15%** Forage Turnip
- 10%** Forage Kale
- 10%** Berseem Clover

*Seed at 1/4" Depth





WHAT MAKES AN IDEAL FOOD PLOT?

Let's start with the size of the food plot.

OPTIONS FOR CALCULATING FOOD PLOT SIZE

$$\text{ACRES} = \frac{\text{LENGTH (L)} \times \text{WIDTH (W)}}{43,560}$$

EXAMPLE:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= 300 \text{ FEET} \\ L &= 1,742 \text{ FEET} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{1,742 \times 300}{43,560} = 11.997 \text{ ACRES}$$

$$\text{ACRES} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{[\text{LENGTH (L)} \times \text{WIDTH (W)}]}{43,560}$$

EXAMPLE:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= 300 \text{ FEET} \\ L &= 1,742 \text{ FEET} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{(1,742 \times 300)}{43,560} = 5.99 \text{ ACRES}$$

$$\text{ACRES} = \frac{\pi \times R^2}{43,560} \quad \begin{matrix} \pi = 3.14 \\ R = \text{RADIUS} \end{matrix}$$

EXAMPLE:

$$R = 340 \text{ FEET}$$

$$\frac{3.14 \times 340^2}{43,560} = 8.33 \text{ ACRES}$$

RULE OF THUMB:

Allow 1/4 to 1/2 acre in multiple areas.

Numerous small plots are generally more productive for hunters, rather than one or two large plots. Deer, especially mature bucks, are more likely to use food plots during daylight hours if plots are smaller and surrounded by thick cover. Plots should receive four to five hours of

landform and the type of soil.

- It should be free, open and without obstacles such as large rocks, low hanging branches and sudden drop-offs.
- The soil should be able to supply high quality feed. If it isn't already in the right condition, you'll have to treat it before planting.
- Once planted, the ground cover should provide a soft cushion to prevent stress on limbs and it should be attractive.

If managed wisely, a food plot will be both an economical source of high-quality feed for deer, as well as cover for other wildlife.

If managed poorly or ignored, a food plot can soon become nothing more than an overgrazed weed patch that not only has little nutritional value, but may even contribute to health problems.



SOIL FERTILITY

Soil is the foundation of a healthy food plot, so it's essential that you know what condition your foundation is in before planting. More than likely, the land you're turning into a food plot was once used for other purposes.

Soil that is deficient in the proper nutrients, or out of pH balance, cannot produce forage that has high nutritional value. The only reliable way to know what the soil needs -and doesn't need -is to test, don't guess.

The best time to soil test is in the fall and early spring, before previous residue starts to breakdown. If fertilization has already taken place, you should wait at least 12 weeks before testing, in order to get an accurate reading.

When taking samples, use clean tools. Pesticide or fertilizer

sunlight per day. If small plots are receiving too much grazing pressure, then planting a large "feeding" plot in the center of your property can take stress off smaller plots. Generally speaking, planting 2-5% of your property in food plots is ideal, with about 2/3 of those plots being perennial forages.

As you plan the food plot, take into consideration the

residues on the tools, or in the container, will create misleading results. Take six to eight cores from each food plot where the soil type and topography are fairly uniform and the food plot has been uniformly managed, with regard to the crop grown or fertilizer applied. Limit the maximum area of each sample to no more than 2 acres. Collect a sample by making a random zig-zag pattern over the entire field. Mix the cores thoroughly and then submit about a pint of soil to the lab.

RULE OF THUMB:

Soil test every two to three years. Take soil from the top 3 to 5 inches.

BENEFITS OF FERTILIZING

Fertilization enables the plant to develop denser and deeper roots which allow it to:

- Absorb more nutrients and moisture.
- Develop denser foliage to increase the absorption of sunlight.
- Increases the plant's ground cover, which inhibits the growth of weeds.

THE FOOD PLOT'S BUILDING BLOCKS: N.P.K.



Nitrogen (N) - the first number on a bag of fertilizer

Nitrogen is critical for the maximum growth of cool season grasses. An adequate supply of nitrogen is associated with vigorous vegetative growth and a plant's dark green color. Nitrogen is very mobile in the soil. It moves from the soil into the plant as part of the growth process and seeping water can leach it out of the soil over time. Therefore, it must be continually replenished.

The preferred sources of nitrogen are Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0-24) or Urea (46-0-0).

Ammonium Sulfate aides the new plants without burning them if put on at too high of a rate or when under higher temperatures. Urea is best used in the spring, when temperatures are lower. If it's applied when temperatures are hotter, high levels of volatilization may occur. (http://ohioline.osu.edu/b760/b760_3.html)

Heavily grazed food plots with high yielding forages require approximately 100-150 pounds of actual Nitrogen/acre/year.

RULE OF THUMB:

Three applications of Nitrogen at 50 lbs./acre/year

- Summer, if rains are present to promote growth.
- Spring and fall.



PHOSPHORUS (P) - the second number on a bag of fertilizer

Plants require phosphorus for steady, strong growth. As growth occurs, phosphorus is used to efficiently use sugars and starches and to maximize photosynthesis in the young roots, stems and leaves. When adequate phosphorus is in the soil, you will generally see rapid growth, earlier maturity and frequently the quality of vegetative growth is improved. ([http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex920?opendocument](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex920?opendocument))

RULE OF THUMB:

40-60 lbs./acre/year or based on the soil test.

- Phosphorous is directly related to milk production of the doe and antler growth of the buck.



POTASSIUM (K) - the third number on a bag of fertilizer

Potassium is required for overall strong plant growth, increased disease resistance and increased winter hardiness.

RULE OF THUMB:

250-300 lbs./acre/year or based on the soil test.

WHAT IF SOIL PH IS NOT IDEAL?

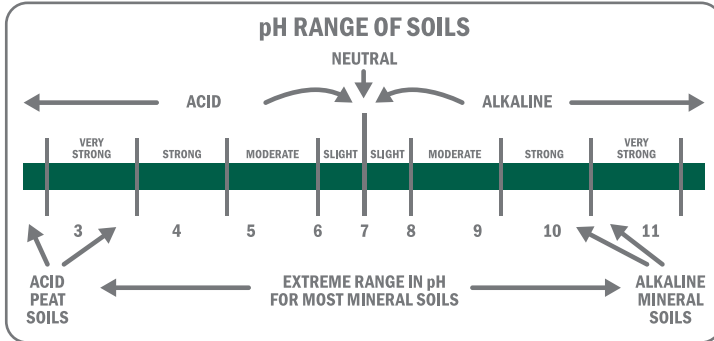
For the food plot to reach its full nutritional potential, the soil's pH range should be between 6.0 to 7.0. Legumes require a higher pH than the grasses, due in part to the rhizobia activity in the root nodules. The rhizobia have a higher pH requirement for nitrogen fixation than the plant has for growth. Within grasses, the warm-season grasses are more tolerant of low pH values than the cool-season grasses. But, there are important reasons to maintain a pH of 6.0 to 7.0, even if you are planting a warm-season grass.

- Most nutrients that a plant needs are available within the 6.0 to 7.0 pH range.
- Some problem weed species are more competitive at lower pH values.
- Over-seeded winter annuals, especially clovers, require a higher pH for optimum growth and production.
- Nitrogen fertilizer is a major acidifying force in food plots. Therefore, high nitrogen rates can rapidly decrease the soil pH. (<http://hubcap.clemnson.edu/-blpprt/pasture/grazing.html>)



BALANCING THE pH

Fall is the best time to boost pH levels by applying lime because it allows the soil to neutralize, which takes from four to six months.



WEED CONTROL

The presence of weeds and brush in a food plot often indicates poor food plot management, typically either over-grazing or inadequate fertilization. Because they compete with desirable food plot species for water, sunlight and nutrients, their presence reduces both the longevity and nutritional value of a food plot stand.

The best weed control is achieved by maintaining a dense healthy stand of grasses and legumes through proper fertilization, cutting management and higher seed rates.

Once broadleaf weeds take root in a food plot, chemicals such as 2,4-D¹, Banvel® or Crossbow® may be used to take control. Keep the following in mind:

- Chemicals are non-selective – they kill beneficial broadleaf plants, like legumes and clover, in addition to noxious plants such as multi-flora rose and brambles.
- To control broadleaf weeds in a legume food plot, you must control them the year before and plant the legumes the following year. Mowing is the best alternative.
- For the chemical to be effective, weeds must be actively growing when it's applied. Follow the label.
- Round-Up® can be used to remove difficult perennials; however, Round-Up® will take out beneficial plants at the same time and will require reseeding of those areas.
- Use pesticides as spot treatments only. Do not broadcast them throughout the food plot.
- It's best to apply herbicides in early spring.

CAUTION:

Use pesticides only when necessary, and at the recommended dosages and timing, to keep residues within the limit the set by the law. Before using any pesticide, read the label and follow all directions and safety precautions listed.

¹2,4-D is an option for broadleaf weed control in legume- and grass- based plots. It does not kill all broadleaf weeds.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

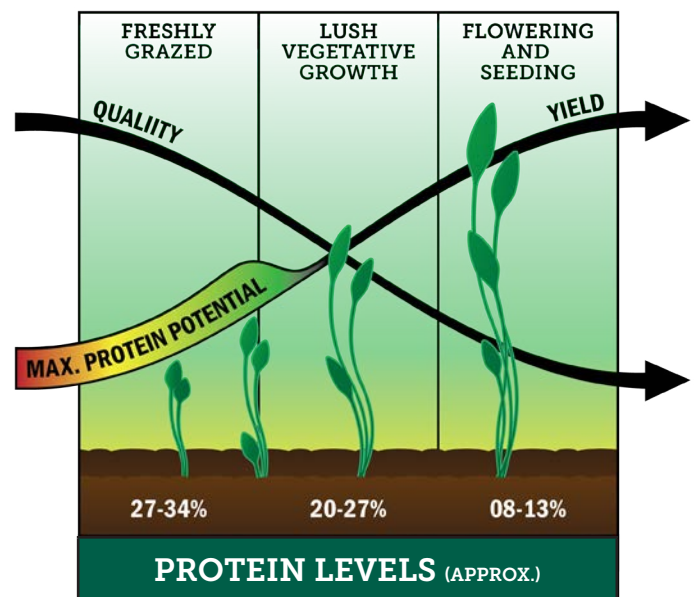
MOWING

Mowing has two primary advantages. First, it reduces weeds and second, it improves the food plot's productivity.

Mowing before the weed's seedheads are produced, prevents weeds from spreading. Mowing also keeps the plants shorter, which deer prefer because it has less fiber, is higher in protein and more nutrients reside in the younger leaves and stems.

RENOVATION

Ideally it would be best to plow the food plot and grow an annual crop, such as corn or oats, for one year and seed the food plot the following year. Growing an annual crop helps remove both broadleaf and grass weeds that have strong root systems, destroys mole runs, breaks down the compacted sod and allows the preparation of a good seedbed.



An alternative method is to till the food plot in late fall and leave tilled over winter. Then work a new seedbed in the spring by rotovation or plowing, followed by dragging into a smooth, firm seedbed. It is important that all past plants be buried so they don't re-grow.

Seeding in early spring offers the greatest opportunity for successful renovation. Later plantings are likely to suffer during summer droughts because they don't have the root structure to survive. Also, bacterial nodulation of legumes slows when plants are under moisture stress and weeds become more competitive. If you must plant during the summer, make sure to irrigate sufficiently in order to establish plant growth.

Planting in early fall can also be successful, depending

on moisture levels and temperatures. It is important the seedling is established 45-60 days before temperatures drop to freezing, so plants can get an adequate root system established. (<http://clallam.wsu.edu/waterquality/pasture.html>)

Seed needs to have good soil contact. This can best be accomplished by using a drill to plant. Broadcast seeding is not recommended because it does not ensure soil contact nor seed placement. If broadcast seeding is the only option, follow with a drag or cultipacker to push seed into the top 1/8 to 1/4 inch of the soil.

FROST SEEDING

Frost /dormant seeding legumes and grasses is an efficient way to improve food plot yields or change the forage composition within your food plot. This is done in late fall after soil temperatures are below 40 degrees Fahrenheit or early spring before soils warm above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. This allows the new seedlings to establish without heavy competition.

Frost seeding has several benefits over traditional forms for planting:

- Ability to establish forage in an undisturbed sod bed.
- Reduced need for labor and energy.
- Minimum equipment investment.
- Shortened "non-grazing" period.
- Maintains stand productivity for both grasses and legumes.

As with other planting methods, soil contact is essential for success. This can be achieved by mowing closely in the fall or winter, down to 2 inches, in order to open up stands and expose soil. Sod-type grasses (bluegrass, brome) are the most difficult to frost seed, especially where a thick layer of thatch covers the soil surface. In these instances, spraying out the bluegrass or brome grass and starting over is the best solution. Preferred species are festulolium, ryegrass, orchardgrass, Ladino clover and red clover.

In the spring, it's important to reduce plant competition so the new seedlings can develop adequate root systems. By mowing or animal grazing down to 2 inches in the fall, spring regrowth from established plants is slowed down, allowing the seedlings to take hold. As the new seedlings take hold, follow the prescribed routine to ensure strong root growth and thicken up the food plot more quickly:

- Allow food plot to grow 6-8 inches.
- Mow it.
- Allow it to re-grow to 6-8 inches.
- Mow it again.
- After the second mowing, allow the food plot to re-grow. Then, either allow it to grow for cover or continue mowing cycle.

WATER

Like other field crops, food plots benefit from adequate water throughout the growing season. It provides for faster recovery, maintains productivity and lengthens the life of the food plot.

The amount of water required each week depends on the type of soil and weather conditions. Different soils hold water better than others. A soil test will indicate the amount of watering that is required.

REFERENCES:

The Grass Can Be Greener

Dr. Clyde Johnson, DVM - Spofford, NH

Johnson Agronomy Department – Purdue

Purdue University

K.D. Johnson, Agronomy Department

M.A. Russell, Animal Sciences Department

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LA CROSSE SEED PROVIDES A FULL RANGE OF PRODUCTS TO MEET YOUR NEEDS:

NATIVES & WILDFLOWERS

- Native grasses
- Conservation seed mixes
- Wildflowers/forbs
- Custom conservation seed mixes
» (NRCS, CRP, Pollinator)



SUMMER SELECT™
BY DLF

SUMMER ANNUALS

- Sorghum x Sudan
- Sudangrass
- Forage Sorghum
- Millets
- Teffgrass



SOIL FIRST®
BY DLF

COVER CROPS

- Cover crop seed
- Cover crop mixes
- Custom cover crop mixes
- Seed inoculants

SMALL GRAINS

- Spring cereals
- Winter cereals
- Pea mixes



EARTH CARPET®
BY DLF

TURF

- Turf seed
- Turf mixes
- Custom turf mixes
- Conservation mixes
- Erosion control

SWEET CORN

Some varieties are sweeter than others, depending on whether one or both of their parents were sugary enhanced. Varieties that get the 'se' gene from both their parents are homozygous for that trait, or 'double se,' and all of their kernels have the se characteristics. Typically a homozygous se will have better eating quality than a heterozygous se.

Sweet corn comes in three colors: yellow, white and bicolor (yellow and white). Cross pollination of yellow kernel varieties with white kernel varieties will result in production of bicolor corn. If a bicolor is cross pollinated with a yellow variety, kernel color will be mostly yellow. Although there are regional preferences for certain kernel colors, there is no relationship between color and sweetness.

CONVENTIONAL VARIETIES

	MATURITY DAYS	COLOR
Trinity	70	bicolor
Sugar Buns	72	yellow
Ambrosia	75	bicolor
Bodacious	75	yellow
Delectable	84	bicolor
Incredible	85	yellow



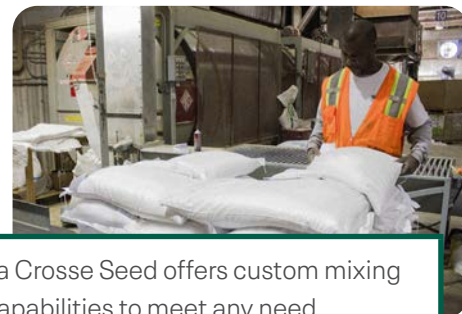
CUSTOM SEED MIXING

La Crosse Seed offers a vast portfolio of seed designed for many conservation applications. A partial list available through La Crosse Seed includes seed for:

- **Conservation cover – including CRP and pollinator habitat seeds**
- **Contour buffer strips**
- **Filter strips**
- **Field borders**
- **Forage and biomass plantings**
- **Grassed waterways**
- **Stream bank protection**

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CREATING CUSTOM SEED MIXES:

- Think about seed sizes – will the different size and shape of certain seeds prohibit specific application methods?
 - » **Aerial:** too large of seed might struggle to get adequate seed-to-soil contact
 - » **Drilling or Ground Seeding:** seed size usually affects seeding depth. Different seeding depths become a real challenge with numerous species all in the same bag



La Crosse Seed offers custom mixing capabilities to meet any need. Contact us at info@laxseed.com or visit our website to learn more.

- Different cover crops often perform best when planted at different times
- Not all crops are beneficial to the next crop in the rotation
- Select species carefully, making sure all species are adapted to the field's soil, drainage and crop rotation



SOIL FIRST® 101 COVER STARTER

Simple. Practical. A low-risk option for early adopters & growers looking for flexibility.

- For multiple regions & marginal soil environments
- Winter-hardy rye will sequester excess nitrogen

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 30 - 35 Broadcast: 35 - 40 Aerial: 30 - 40 Forage: 40 - 50

91% GUARDIAN® WINTER RYE
9% TILLAGE RADISH®



SOIL FIRST® 102 COVER STARTER +

Building nitrogen & root mass while improving soil tilth & biomass potential

- Perfect before both corn or soybeans
- Ideal for Southern Corn Belt & beyond

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 30 - 35 Broadcast: 35 - 40 Aerial: 30 - 40 Forage: 40 - 50

72% GUARDIAN® WINTER RYE
20% CRIMSON CLOVER
8% TILLAGE RADISH®



SOIL FIRST® 121 BRASSICA BOOST

Pairing with other species is great for forage or grazing & providing high biomass potential

- Perfect supplement for cereal grains like rye & oats
- Will scavenge for excess nutrients left in the soil

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 6 - 8 Broadcast: 8 - 10 Aerial: 10 - 15 Supplemental: 2 - 4

50% PURPLE TOP TURNIPS
50% TILLAGE RADISH®



SOIL FIRST® 125 N-HANCER

Heavy legume mix intended for adding Nitrogen

- Strong nitrogen fixing mix
- Ideal as fall forage mix

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 35 - 40 Broadcast: 40 - 50 Aerial: NR Forage: 40 - 50

30% DEFENDER OATS
25% SPRING PEAS
20% BALANSA CLOVER
20% CRIMSON CLOVER
5% TILLAGE RADISH®



SOIL FIRST® 140 MULTI-PURPOSE

For livestock grazers providing soil protection & biomass from fall through spring

- Early seeding/late fall silage opportunity
- Ideal forage for beef/non-lactating dairy

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 35 - 40 Broadcast: 40 - 50 Aerial: NR Forage: 40 - 50

50% NITROUS® WINTER TRIT
38% WINTER PEAS
6% TILLAGE RADISH®
6% FORAGE BRASSICA



SOIL FIRST® 142 CLASSIC

For early planting windows - double-crop, prevent plant, interseeding

- Ideal for acres going to corn or other grass crops
- Plant early to maximize production

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 12 - 15 Broadcast: 15 - 20 Aerial: 20 - 25 Forage: 15 - 20

85% CRIMSON CLOVER
15% TILLAGE RADISH®



SOIL FIRST® 150 FIELD FIT

Straightforward & flexible mix with very minimal spring management

- Winterkills in most northern climates
- Great for sequestering leftover nutrients

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 30 - 35 Broadcast: 35 - 40 Aerial: 30 - 40 Forage: 40 - 50

90% DEFENDER OATS
10% TILLAGE RADISH®



SOIL FIRST® 160 ROOTING

Blend of radish & ryegrass maximizes root mass & captures nutrients

- Best for breaking up compaction & catching nutrients
- Perfect in manure systems

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 15 - 20 Broadcast: 20 - 25 Aerial: 20 - 25 Forage: 20 - 25

88% ANNUAL RYEGRASS
12% TILLAGE RADISH®



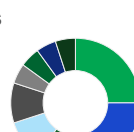
SOIL FIRST® 167 SUMMER BIOMASS

Base of 50% warm-season annual grasses is optimized for biomass & is uniquely suited for grazing

- Tolerates poor soil, low pH, & drought environments
- Species diversity helps soil aggregate stability

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 15 - 20 Broadcast: 20 - 25 Aerial: NR Forage: 25 - 30

25% SORGHUM x SUDANGRASS
20% IRON & CLAY COW PEAS
15% PEARL MILLET
10% GERMAN MILLET
10% DEFENDER OATS
5% SUNN HEMP
5% FORAGE COLLARDS
5% PEREDOVIK SUNFLOWER
5% HYBRID BRASSICA



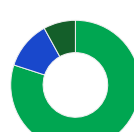
SOIL FIRST® 175 ACCUSPREAD

Coated clover & ryegrass creates spread patterns & broadcast germination


- Great compaction alleviation & nutrient scavenging
- Facilitates more accurate broadcast seeding patterns

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE) Drill: 20 - 25 Broadcast: 25 - 30 Aerial: 25 - 30 Forage: 25 - 30

80% ANNUAL RYEGRASS*
12% CRIMSON CLOVER*
8% TILLAGE RADISH®



*COATED



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