



# CENTRAL HARDWOOD NOTES

## Plantings For Wildlife

Grains, forages, and other vegetation can be planted to provide critical habitat for desired wildlife species or to increase habitat diversity. Plantings may be in openings created in the forest (see Note 9.11 *Wildlife Openings*) or along the forest edge in cultivated or pastured fields if protected from domestic livestock. The first step in determining if and what type of plantings are needed is to evaluate the existing habitat on your land (see Note 9.02 *Wildlife Habitat Evaluation*). Some of the specific recommendations in this Note are based upon our experience in the southwestern part of the central hardwood region. Consult local or regional wildlife experts for species suitable for your area.

Two types of plantings can be used to complement natural habitat:

### **Food Plantings:**

Annual Grains-Provide emergency high energy food when native foods are covered by ice and snow.

Forages-Provide nutritious food to complement native foods.

Perennial Fruit and Seed Producers-Provide soft mast and seeds.

### **Cover Plantings:**

Provide escape, nesting, and winter cover.

The annual grain and forage plantings must be located in areas that can be plowed or disked and that have escape cover close by. The other plantings do not require tilling but may require control of unwanted, competitive vegetation.



Annual grains such as milo provide high energy food (Missouri Department of Conservation).



Dogwood provides soft mast (Missouri Department of Conservation).

To establish annual grains:

- . Fertilize and lime according to soil test. If soil test is not available, use 800 pounds of 12-1 2-12 per acre (or equivalent) and 4 tons of crushed limestone per acre.
- . Plow and/or disk as early in the spring as possible.
- . Seed at the following rates:

| <b>Species</b>     | <b>Seed/<br/>acre<br/>Pounds</b> | <b>Seeding<br/>date</b>                               |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Milo               | 14                               | May-June  |
| Corn               | 12                               | April-May   |
| <b>Mixture:</b>    |                                  |   |
| Milo               | 8                                | May-June  |
| German Millet      | 1                                | May-June  |
| Soybeans           | 8                                | May-June  |
| Lespedeza (Korean) | 6                                | Overseed in<br>February-March<br>(the following year) |

- . Plant half of the area each year, leaving the other half to grow to native vegetation. Each year plant the half that was not planted the previous year.

To establish forages:

- . Fertilize and lime according to soil test.
- . Prepare seed bed in August or September.
- . Seed at the following rates:

| Species            | Seed/<br>acre<br>Pounds | Planting<br>dates                      |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Mixture:           |                         |  |
| Wheat              | 30                      | Fall                                   |
| Orchardgrass       | 2                       | Fall                                   |
| Ladino clover      | 2                       | Fall                                   |
| Red clover         | 2                       | overseed early the<br>following spring |
| Lespedeza (Korean) | 10                      | overseed early the<br>following spring |

Low fertility soils

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Orchardgrass       | 8   |
| Lespedeza (Korean) | 15  |
| Ladino clover      | 0.5 |

- . After first year, mow two times each year (June and September).
- . Top dress every 2 years with 100 pounds phosphate and 100 pounds potash.
- . Light grazing in June that removes half of the current growth can be used instead of mowing.

To establish perennial seed producers and cover plantings:

- . Prepare site by controlling competing vegetation.
- . Plant in clumps to develop thickets or in rows to create travel lanes between habitat components.
- . Control competition each year by mowing and/or using herbicides until plantings are established.
- . Plant at the following spacings:

| <b>Species</b>                      | <b>Height</b><br>(Feet) | <b>Spacing</b><br><b>Between</b><br><b>rows</b> | <b>Between</b><br><b>plants</b><br>(Feet) | <b>Desired sites</b>  | <b>Use</b>                          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Eastern red-cedar                   | 30-60                   | 10x6  |   | Loam soils, abandoned fields, rocky hillsides, in full sun.                     | Soft mast, escape and winter cover  |
| Sumac                               | 2-6                     | 3 x 2   |   | Dry rocky hillsides and field edges.  | Soft mast and loafing cover         |
| Blackberry                          | 3-6                     | 3 x 1.5   |   | Well-drained soils in full sunlight.  | Soft mast loafing and escape cover  |
| Blueberries                         | 2-12                    | 4x3   |   | Well-drained acid soil in full sunlight.  | Soft mast                           |
| Possumhaw<br>(Deciduous holly)      | 8-20                    | 8 x 4   |   | Moist, well-drained soils to drier upland sites, creek banks, draws.            | Soft mast                           |
| Downy serviceberry                  | 15-30                   | 10x 16  |   | Rich upland soils to poorer upland soils; in partial shade.                     | Soft mast                           |
| Flowering dogwood<br>Other dogwoods | 20-30<br>8-15           | 14x8<br>Clumps<br>8x8                           |   | Well-drained soils in full sunlight or partial shade.                           | Soft mast                           |
| Hawthorne                           | 8-15                    | 10x6<br>Clumps<br>8x8                           |   | Adapted to old fields and woods border.   | Soft mast, nesting and escape cover |
| Wild plum                           | 1 0-30                  | 10x6<br>Clumps<br>8x8                           |   | Deep, rich, moist bottom-land; adapted to upland sites, requires full sunlight. | Soft mast loafing and escape cover  |

To establish cover plantings of native warm-season grass:

- . Prepare a plowed, disked, and cultipacked seed bed. Seedbed must be firm.
- . Fertilize with phosphate, potash, and lime according to soil test.
- . Plant during May or June.
- . Seed at the following rates:

| <b>Species</b>  | <b>Seed/acre</b><br>(Pounds pure live seed) |
|-----------------|---|
| Switchgrass     | <b>4</b>                                    |
| Big bluestem    | <b>7</b>                                    |
| Indiangrass     | <b>7</b>                                    |
| Mixture:        |   |
| Big bluestem    | 1.5   |
| Indiangrass     | 1.5   |
| Little bluestem | 0.5   |
| Sideoats grama  | 1   |

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