



Farm Service Agency

DEFINITION

A food plot is a planting of grain to provide a winter source of food for a variety of wildlife on CRP land. With the exception of maximillian or stiff sunflower, food plots must be planted annually.



USES OF FOOD PLOTS

A food plot adds plant diversity, food and cover to the landscape. It is planned to provide a winter food source. Where fall tillage buries the majority of crop residue, food plots are an excellent choice to encourage wildlife survival.

Without a reliable food source, even the best winter cover is useless to wildlife.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

CRP food plots shall meet all of the following:

1. The maximum food plot size for CRP contracts is 5 acres.
2. Minimum individual food plot size is 1/2 acre.
3. Food plots for CREP will be up to 5.0 acres as determined by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
4. Food plots may be added to existing general signup contracts. Including a food plot on a signup 39 contract will provide 5 EBI points.
5. With the exception of CREP, CP12 is not an eligible practice on continuous CRP contracts.

Food plots will be planted early enough to assure maturity of food plants. Food plots are not eligible for FSA cost share payments.

Food plots on general signup CRP contracts may be in the same location each year or may be moved to different locations. Permanent cover must be reestablished if the food plot is moved.

SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements will be listed on the conservation plan. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard 645-Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Corn, grain sorghum and sunflowers: drill in rows 22 to 42 inches apart.

Wheat, barley, millet, buckwheat, oats, rye: drill using locally accepted drill spacing. Broadcast seeding and dragging is acceptable for rye, millets, barley and oats. If broadcasting, double or triple seeding rates should be used.

WILDLIFE FOOD , RATES AND FINAL PLANTING DATES

Food Type ANNUALS	Seeding Rate (x/acre)	Seeding Time (inches)
Corn	12,000 to 18,000 plants	May 20
Sorghum	15-30 lbs	May 25
Sunflowers (oil)	12,000 to 18,000 plants	June 5
Oats	50-80 lbs.	May 31
Wheat	60-90 lbs.	
Barley	60-90 lbs.	
Buckwheat	50-60 lbs.	May 20
Millet	15-30 lbs.	June 25
Flax	35 lbs.	June 10
Rye	60-90 lbs.	September 30
Lentils		May 20
Winter Peas		May 20

Perennial food plots of maximillian sunflower at 1 pound PLS per acre or stiff sunflower at 3 pounds per acre are acceptable.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by; (1) treating with chemicals per label

directions, or (2) adequate seedbed preparation.

