

# Wildlife Food Plot

## Conservation Reserve Program Job Sheet

**CP12**

### INTRODUCTION

Wildlife food plots may be established in addition to other CP practices to provide additional food for wildlife. Conservation Reserve Program practices that may include food plots are: CP1, CP2, CP3, CP3A, CP4D, and CP25.

**Cost Sharing.** There are no CRP cost-sharing funds provided for planting food plots. If food plots are relocated during the contract period, the previous food plots must be replanted with an approved planting mix at the expense of the CRP participant.

### FOOD PLOT REQUIREMENTS

**Size:** Up to ½ acre per 20 acres enrolled.

**Total Quantities:** Up to 2% of the enrolled acreage, provided that soil erosion will not be a problem.

**Spacing:** At least 300 feet of permanent vegetation (grasses, shrubs, or trees) is needed between plots. For small or irregularly shaped fields, plots may be placed closer than 300 feet, provided that soil erosion will not be a problem.

**Location:** Place food plots where they are easily accessible to wildlife, and near woody escape cover where applicable. Do not place plots where excessive erosion will occur, or in filter strips or stream buffers

**Distance from Water:** Place food plots at least 50 feet from streams, ponds, or wetlands.

### RECOMMENDED PLANTINGS

Plants commonly used in food plots include:

**Annual Grains, Forbs, and Legumes:**

Partridge Pea	Sunflowers
Grain Sorghum	Corn
Buckwheat	
Milletts (Japanese, German, Browntop, Pearl, etc.)	

**Biennial and Perennial Legumes:**

Clovers (Red, White, Ladino)  
Perennial Pea  
Flatpea

### ESTABLISHING THE FOOD PLOT

Food plots need to be planted by the end of the next normal planting season, in order to meet CRP contract requirements. Plants that are perennials or reseeding annuals (such as partridge pea) may not need to be replanted each year. Use normal farming methods to plant the food plots. When possible, use a no-till drill to plant seeds in existing plant residue.

### FOOD PLOT MAINTENANCE

Food plots must be replanted as needed to maintain the stand. Food plots may remain at one location for the life of the CRP contract, or they may be relocated. If they are relocated, the previous food plots must be replanted with an approved planting mix at the expense of the CRP participant.

Vegetation may be mowed or chopped, using normal agronomic practices, to make seeds more accessible for wildlife. However, be cautious of state hunting regulations concerning baiting. For additional guidance concerning this topic, contact THE Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Noxious weeds must be controlled.

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