

MANAGING WILDLIFE OPENINGS FOR NATIVE VEGETATION

Wildlife species are adapted to naturally growing vegetation and in some cases favor it over cultivated foods. In addition, cultivated foods are often more expensive to establish and maintain than natural foods, are more site restricted, and are more prone to being adversely affected by extreme weather conditions. Natural vegetation management can be applied so as to provide a diversity of fruit production, browse, and seeds from various forbs and grasses, and improve nesting cover and brood range for quail and turkeys.

MOWING WITH FALLOW DISKING

Fallow disking can be used to encourage a variety of important wildlife food plants. Disking during October through February on a two-year cycle encourages the growth of all seeding plants like ragweed, partridge pea, beggar weeds, lespedezas, and poor joe. June disking favors insect producing vegetation. The vegetative results of disking vary by soil type and timing of soil disturbance. If desirable results are not achieved then the timing of disking should be changed. Liming and fertilization can be used in conjunction with disking to encourage various plants. Liming to maintain the pH at 6.0 to 7.0 will favor legumes as these plants grow poorly on acid soils. Disking can also improve vegetative structure and increase insect abundance thereby improving brood range for quail and turkeys.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Although fruit trees or other woody plantings are no longer acceptable for use in Project WINGS native vegetation in place of cultivated foods offers the best cost-benefit ratio. A combination of both fallow disk strips and planted strips can be used to meet management needs, especially when the objective is for hunting or observation.



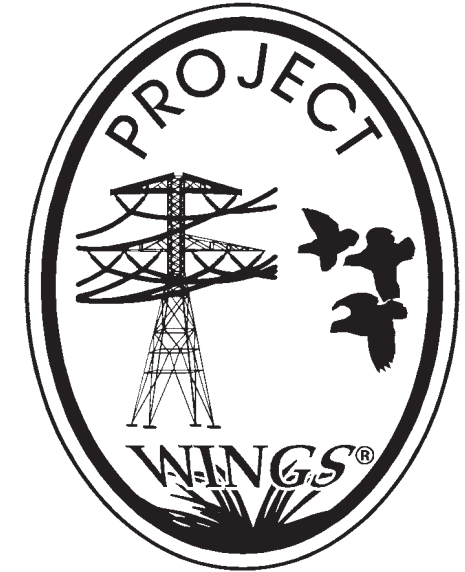
Project WINGS (Wildlife Incentives for Non-Game and Game Species) is a rights-of-way management campaign sponsored by the Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council, Georgia Power, Georgia Transmission, MEAG Power and Southern Company Gas with technical assistance and support from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Forestry Commission and local conservation districts

in cooperation with

The Audubon Society - Atlanta Chapter
The Georgia Wildlife Federation
The Georgia Conservancy
The National Wild Turkey Federation
Quality Deer Management Association

Revised 2020

For more information call Project WINGS campaign headquarters at (706) 885-0101.
www.tworiversrcd.org



Wildlife Incentives for Non-game and Game Species

Management Menu

WILDLIFE MENU

Deer -	Corn, Aeschynomene, Clover Mixtures, Japanese Honeysuckle Fertilization
Doves -	Millet Mixture (Browntop, Dove Proso), Corn, Grain Sorghum
Ducks -	Corn, Grain Sorghum
Quail -	Millet Mixture - (Browntop, Dove Proso), Corn, Grain Sorghum, Kobe Lespedeza, Clover Mixtures, Switchgrass, Bicolor Lespedeza
Rabbits -	Clover Mixtures
Songbirds -	Millet Mixtures, Corn, Grain Sorghum, clover Mixtures, Switchgrass, Bahiagrass,
Turkeys -	Millet Mixture, Chufa, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Clover Mixtures, Bahiagrass

Approved Management Practices:

- ◆ Annual Plantings \$75/acre
- ◆ Permanent Plantings \$75/acre
- ◆ Mowing with Fallow Disking \$75/acre

SPECIAL NOTE: Gas utilities prohibit use of non-rubber wheeled equipment & specify tillage not exceed a 6" depth.

Planting Method, Seed Rate and Season

Millet Mixture - Broadcast mixture of Browntop 18 lbs/ac & Dove Proso 7 lbs/ac
Plant May-June for summer to fall use

Chufa - Broadcast - 50 lbs/ac
Plant May-July for winter to spring use

Corn - Rows - 7 lbs/ac
Plant April-May for fall to winter use

Grain Sorghum - Rows - 7 lbs/ac
Broadcast - 15 lbs/ac
Plant April-June for fall to winter use

Kobe Lespedeza - Broadcast - 30 lbs/ac
Plant Feb-Mar for winter to spring use

Aeschynomene - Broadcast - 20 lbs/ac
Plant May - July for summer to fall use

Clover Mixture - Broadcast mixture of Regal Ladino 5 lbs/ac, Red 10 lbs/ac, Wheat 30 lbs/ac & Annual Rye 30 lbs/ac
Plant Aug - Nov for fall to summer use

Clover Mixture - Broadcast mixture of Crimson 20 lbs/ac, Annual Rye 30 lbs/ac & Wheat 40 lbs/ac
Plant Aug - Nov for fall to spring use

Bahiagrass - Broadcast 15 lbs/ac

Plant April - May for use in summer

Japanese Honeysuckle Fertilization
Mar & Aug for year long use

Bicolor Lespedeza - Seedlings, plant Dec - Feb for use in fall - winter

Switchgrass - Broadcast or drill at 4-8 lbs/ac., no deeper than 1/4". Seed should be lightly covered by dragging or rolling. Plant April-June.

Natural Vegetation - Mow or disk every 2 yrs, Feb-Mar.

Treatments/Comments

Plant in April for turkey and quail. Make dove field plantings in May & June. Begin mowing and/or burning as seed matures in late summer

Rotate sites every 3 yrs.- also relished by hogs and raccoons

Expensive & difficult to grow - eaten by many wildlife species

Savannah 5 or WGF varieties -nutritionally similar to corn but easier to grow & less expensive

Can be encouraged to reseed by light disking in March

Excellent summer deer forage. Killed by frost. Does best on moist sites. Can be mixed with 5 lbs/ac grain sorghum.

Liming to maintain pH is critical. Mow as needed in spring-summer to control weed competition. Fertilize as needed or once/ year in early Sept. Mixture should remain in clover for 3 to 5 years. Perennial.

Lime not essential on some soils but increases yield. On clay soils light disking in Sept. will encourage clover to re-seed. Can maintain clover for 2 or more years. Annual.

Piedmont & Coastal Plain only. Perennial. Not used by deer.Can be mowed & overseeded with wheat, rye, ryegrass, or oats & clover in the fall to provide fall-spring food for deer & turkeys. Mow & fertilize in February.

Broadcast 150 lbs/ac of ammonium nitrate & 100 lbs/ac of 13-13-13 or super phosphate. Lime not essential, will increase yield - apply 2 tons/ac

Plant seedlings in rows 2'x3'. If broadcast seeded use 20 lbs/ac. bicolor seed & mix with 15 lbs/ac of Kobe Lespedeza. Most beneficial on lands where quail are the primary management objective.

If weed or grass competition is heavy, then do not fert-(C ilize the first year. Switchgrass provides food for seed-eating birds and nesting cover for quail.

Plant species of special importance include greenbrier, blackberry, honeysuckle, native grasses & legumes.

(Get soil tests through the County Extension Service for fertilizer, lime and herbicide recommendations. Otherwise use 800 lbs/ac at 10-10-10 at planting. For plantings other than legumes - {i.e. clovers, aeschynomene, lespedeza} add 150 lbs/ac ammonium nitrate).