



## WILDLIFE FOOD PATCH SEED MIXTURE

An adequate food supply is critical to wildlife, especially during the winter. Sufficient food is normally present during the warmer months, but with the colder temperatures, snow and ice often bury much of the natural food supply, making it unavailable to many species of wildlife. Much of an animal's energy is expended in maintaining its body temperature during cold weather. Animals that cannot find enough to eat during harsh weather will soon become weak. The chance of starvation or predation is greatly increased for an animal in this condition.

An excellent way to increase the amount of food available to wildlife is by planting a wildlife food patch. Such a planting will grow into a haven for wildlife by providing cover and food for songbirds, pheasants, quail, doves, rabbits, squirrels, and other wild animals.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife recommends the following mixture for food patches:

| Kind of Seed in Mixture* | Size of Area            |            |          |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------|----------|
|                          | 1000 sq ft (10' x 100') | 2000 sq ft | 1/4 acre |
| Soybeans                 | 4 ounces                | 8 ounces   | 1-1/2 lb |
| Dwarf Sorghum            | 8 ounces                | 16 ounces  | 3 lb     |
| Proso or Browntop Millet | 2 ounces                | 4 ounces   | 3/4 lb   |
| Sunflower                | 2 ounces                | 4 ounces   | 3/4 lb   |
| Buckwheat                | 2 ounces                | 4 ounces   | 3/4 lb   |

\*Most of these seeds can be obtained from local farm supply stores. Should any one not be available, it can be omitted or replaced with a similar quantity of the ones that are available.

If you are considering planting food patches, you should pick sites that are on well drained soils of moderate fertility, and next to good cover such as brushy fencerows or woodlots. The sites should be plowed, disked, and fertilized. Use 80 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer for each 1/4 acre of food patch. The number you should plant depends on the native food supply, but figure one food patch per 40 acres of land.

If you would like more information or technical assistance, please contact the Division of Wildlife at:

### Wildlife Districts

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| <p><b>Wildlife District One</b><br/>           1500 Dublin Road<br/>           Columbus 43215<br/>           (614) 644-3925</p> <p><b>Wildlife District Two</b><br/>           952 Lima Avenue<br/>           Findlay 45840<br/>           (419) 424-5000</p> | <p><b>Wildlife District Three</b><br/>           912 Portage Lakes Drive<br/>           Akron 44319<br/>           (330) 644-2293</p> <p><b>Wildlife District Four</b><br/>           360 E. State Street<br/>           Athens 45701<br/>           (740) 589-9930</p> <p><b>Wildlife District Five</b><br/>           1076 Old Springfield Pike<br/>           Xenia 45385<br/>           (937) 372-9261</p> |
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