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The Selected Wildlife Crops table provides information on recommended rates, depths, and planting dates of various crops for Maryland conditions. There are crops listed in the table that are not discussed in this publication. They are either crops that have shown promise for wildlife or crops that have a special niche. You may see different rates and planting information in other publications. If you have additional questions about planting crops for wildlife, contact your county Extension office.

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Should you grow crops organically or with limited fertility? Crops will grow equally well whether the nutrients are in an organic or inorganic form. The amount of feed you will produce per unit area will depend largely on the amount of nutrients you supply. Have your soil tested by Maryland Cooperative Extension to find out the right amounts of nutrients to add and to ascertain whether you have a problem with soluble salts.

Managing your areas for optimum production will result in a higher carrying capacity for the animals you want to attract.

Applying more than the recommended amounts of nutrients will result in higher costs without an appreciable increase in yields and accompanied by a possible pollution problem. Cutting back on recommended nutrients will probably result in reduction of the amount of food produced. This will be more of a factor for cultivated crops, such as corn, sorghum, millet, small grain, soybeans, alfalfa, and clover.

Is it better to plant mixtures or a single crop in an area? Again, you need to consider the purpose of your habitat area. The advantage of a single crop in an area is that you can manage it for higher production more easily than multiple crops. Some mixtures contain several different species of plants, and adapted plants may dominate and crowd out the others. The selection of compatible crops in mixtures is very important.

Matching Crops to the Area

If you know the soil conditions of the area you are planting, you can refine your planting to include only those species that are adapted to that area while saving money on food crops.

Some crops do very poorly in wet areas while others thrive under these conditions. Soluble salts can also be a problem in low-lying areas close to tidal water. Under such conditions, crops with wildlife food value that have a high tolerance to salt should be used.
Selected wildlife crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Planting depth (inches)</th>
<th>Planting rate * (pounds/acre)</th>
<th>Best time to establish crop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa **</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>Feb.-Apr. and Aug. 15-Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red clover **</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>4-16</td>
<td>Feb.-Apr. and Aug. 15-Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladino clover **</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Feb.-Apr. and Aug. 15-Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsike clover **</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Feb.-Mar. and Aug. 15-Sept. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson clover **</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>6-20</td>
<td>July-Oct. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White &amp; Dutch clover **</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Feb.-Apr. 1 and Aug. 15-Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lathico flat peas b</td>
<td>1-1/2</td>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>Apr.-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese millet **</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromtop millet</td>
<td>1/2-1</td>
<td>40-60</td>
<td>May-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German millet</td>
<td>1/2-1</td>
<td>5-30</td>
<td>May-June 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proso millet</td>
<td>1/2-1</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>16,000-24,000 seeds/acre</td>
<td>Apr.-May 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailing soybeans *</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>May 15-July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans *</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>40-60</td>
<td>May 15-July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat (winter)**</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>90-120</td>
<td>Oct.-Nov. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>64-96</td>
<td>Sept.-Feb. and Apr. (spring oats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean lespedeza **</td>
<td>0-1/2</td>
<td>10-25</td>
<td>Feb.-Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kobe lespedeza **</td>
<td>0-1/2</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>Feb.-Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serecia lespedeza *</td>
<td>0-1/2</td>
<td>10-40</td>
<td>Mar.-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicolor lespedeza *</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2-10</td>
<td>Apr. 15-May 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA 70 lespedeza *</td>
<td>1/2-1</td>
<td>2-16</td>
<td>Apr. 15-May 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky 31 fescue **</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>8-15</td>
<td>Feb.-Apr. and Aug. 15-Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switchgrass *</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>8-12 PLS</td>
<td>May-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth bromegrass</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>2-10</td>
<td>Feb.-Apr. and Aug. 15-Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed canarygrass *</td>
<td>1/4-1/2</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Feb.-Apr. and Aug. 15-Sept. 15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Use lower rates for mixtures and highest rates for broadcast.
* Use appropriate inoculant at planting.
* Seed can be broadcast on top of soil in a standing crop as long as herbicides that affect germination of the seeded crop were not used.
* Will tolerate some salt.
* Plant wheat after Hessian fly-free date. (Contact county Extension educator for date in your area.)
* Sold only as pure live seed.
* Slow getting established.
* Wild rice seed must be kept at 28 percent moisture or higher during seeding. Area should be flooded with 6 to 12 inches of water in April and remain flooded until grain starts to fill.
* Not well-adapted on flood plain soils of Maryland.

The footnotes to this table are general recommendations compiled from various sources. For more specific recommendations, contact your county Extension office, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the United States Soil Conservation Service, Department of Interior, or commercial representatives.
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### Matching Crops to a Wildlife Species

Crops serve as both food and cover for wildlife. Most of the following crops attract a variety of species. Their main uses are outlined. For most crops, the seed is the most important food source although wildlife consume both the seed and vegetative portions of some crops. Browse is a term used to describe the eating of the vegetative portions of plants. Salt is added to attract certain species of wildlife. Salt is added to attract certain species of wildlife.

**Corn.** Corn is a food source for a wide variety of wildlife. Geese will eat corn as their primary feed when available. Ducks, squirrels, deer, turkeys, and some other species also feed on corn. If the corn is to be left exclusively for wildlife, a variety with good yielding ability but poor standability will allow the birds and animals to eat the corn without chopping or disk ing the crop.

**Soybeans.** Soybean plants are consumed by deer and quail. Deer relish the young tender foliage while quail eat the seed. Geese and ducks will also eat this crop but prefer other feed. There are two varieties of running or trailing soybeans that may be worth trying along woods' edges or as a co-crop with corn or sunflowers. If you grow soybeans with another crop, make sure that any herbicides used are approved for both crops.

**Sorghum.** Sorghum, like corn, is a food source for a wide variety of animals and is available as bird-resistant or nonbird-resistant types. The bird-resistant type contains tannin in the glumes, causing a bitter taste that discourages feeding until the grain is fully ripe. This discourages flock birds, such as blackbirds and grackles, from consuming the crop and also keeps other birds, such as hobalinks, out of the fields. If these birds are present in your area, the use of the bird-resistant types is recommended.

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