

FOOD PLOT ESTABLISHMENT

THE ABC'S

KEITH FIELDER

PUTNAM COUNTY EXTENSION



FOOD PLOTS

- ❖ Excellent way of establishing high quality food sources for wildlife
- ❖ Especially: If you don't have large acreages of Agricultural crops like corn, wheat, soybeans, etc.
- ❖ Or: Your hunting land is managed as Industrial Pine Forest




❖ WHAT DO I NEED TO DO FIRST?

- ❖ IDENTIFY LIKELY SITES
- ❖ IDEALLY $\frac{1}{4}$ ACRE OF PLOT PER 10 ACRES OF HABITAT
- ❖ LONG MEANDERING PLOTS ARE BEST
- ❖ CHOOSE SITES WITH FULL SUN EXPOSURE FOR BEST RESULTS... MINIMUM 6 HOURS OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT
- ❖ AT LEAST $\frac{1}{4}$ ACRE IN SIZE, 1 TO 5 ACRES IS BEST
- ❖ AVOID IF POSSIBLE!
 - ❖ LOADING DECKS (COMPACTED SOILS, SUBSOILING NECESSARY)
 - ❖ EXTREMELY SANDY OR OTHER DROUGHTY SITES

❖ THEN WHAT?


❖ COLLECT A SOIL SAMPLE AND SUBMIT IT TO YOUR LOCAL COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

❖ WILL PROVIDE:
❖ LIME & FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS



The University of Georgia
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension Service

Soil Test Report
Soil, Plant and Water Laboratory



(CEA/CEA Signature)

Sample ID		Lab Information	County Information
<i>Grower Information</i> Client: Ms. Ima Hunter 101 Deer Plot Lane Eatonton, GA 31024 Sample: 1 Crop: Crimson Clover		Lab #1799 Completed: 07/23/99 Printed: 07/14/00	Putnam County 302 W. Marion Street Eatonton, GA 31024

Results

Very High				
High				
Medium				
Low				
	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)
Soil Test Index	15 lbs/Acre	101 lbs/Acre	475 lbs/Acre	76 lbs/Acre

High			
Sufficient			
Low			
	Zinc (Zn)	Manganese (Mn)	Soil pH
Soil Test Index	2 lbs/Acre	28 lbs/Acre	5.0 (7.70 Lime Index)

Recommendations

Limestone	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	Potash (K ₂ O)	Sulfur (S)	Boron (B)	Manganese (Mn)	Zinc (Zn)
1.0 tons/Acre	0 lbs/Acre	90 lbs/Acre	80 lbs/Acre	--	--	--	--

For reseeding clovers or clover seed harvest apply 1 pound of elemental boron (B) per acre.

NOTE: The amount of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P₂O₅), and potash (K₂O) actually applied may deviate 10 pounds per acre from that recommended without appreciably affecting yields.

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

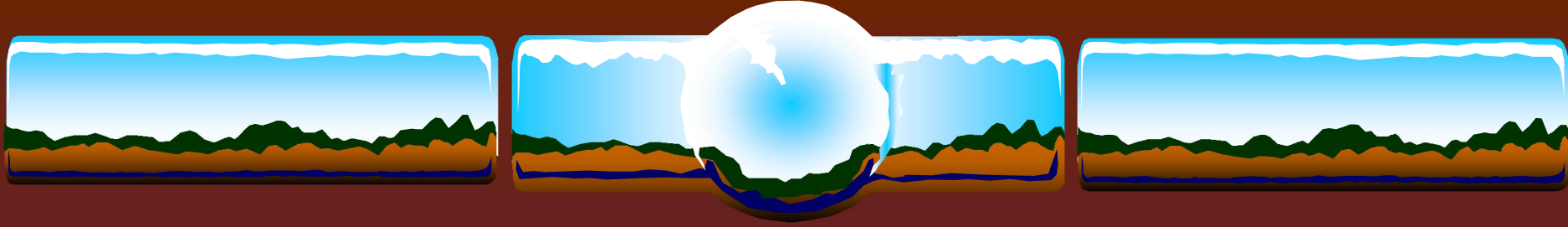
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An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.



WHAT ELSE CAN THE COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT DO FOR ME?

❖ HELP YOU:

- ❖ SELECT THE RIGHT SEED MIX OR TYPE
- ❖ ADVICE ON PLANTING TIMES
- ❖ HOW TO PLANT IT
- ❖ HOW TO MAINTAIN IT
- ❖ TROUBLESHOOT PROBLEMS



DON'T SKIMP ON
RECOMMENDATIONS!

LIME IS THE MOST IMPORTANT
SOIL AMENDMENT

IF YOU MUST CHOOSE
BETWEEN LIME AND
FERTILIZER... CHOOSE LIME!



IN LEIU OF A SOIL TEST:

❖ APPLY:

❖ 1 TO 2 TONS OF LIME PER ACRE

❖ 600 POUNDS OF 10-10-10 FERTILIZER PER ACRE

❖ PLANTINGS INCORPORATING CLOVERS MUST BE LIMED TO A SOIL pH ABOVE 6.0!

❖ DON'T BE LAZY, THE SOIL TEST WILL SAVE YOU MONEY ON LIME AND FERTILIZER BY ELIMINATING OVER AND UNDER APPLICATION!!!!!!



WHAT DO I PLANT?

- ❖ DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF WILDLIFE YOU WISH TO ATTRACT.
- ❖ A GOOD ALL AROUND SEED MIX FOR DEER, TURKEY AND RABBIT IN THE PIEDMONT AREA OF GEORGIA IS...
 - ❖ GRAIN MIX OF WHEAT, OATS & RYE (GRAIN)
 - ❖ INCORPORATING WHITE AND CRIMSON CLOVERS
 - ❖ RAPE SEED CAN ALSO BE INCORPORATED



OTHER PLANTINGS INCLUDE...

- ❖ CHICORY (PERENNIAL)
- ❖ AUSTRIAN WINTER PEAS
- ❖ PERENNIAL CLOVERS (DURANA & PATRIOT)
- ❖ RAPESEED / TURNIP / KALE (COLLARD) MIXES
- ❖ ALFALFA (NEEDS LARGE ACREAGE)
- ❖ SPECIAL COMMERCIAL BLENDS

- ❖ SEE HANDOUT FOR PLANTING GUIDELINES

PREPARE THE SITE RIGHT!



- ❖ PLOW
- ❖ DISK
- ❖ SMOOTH
- ❖ SUBSOIL HARD, COMPACTED GROUND

- ❖ EXTRA!
- ❖ ROOT PRUNE BY SUBSOILING AROUND EDGES OF PLOT



SPREAD LIME, FERTILIZER & SEED EVENLY

- ❖ FOLLOW RECOMMENDED SEEDING RATES
- ❖ IN DROUGHT CONDITIONS YOU MAY WANT TO LOWER SEEDING RATES





COVER SEED COMPLETELY

- ❖ CULTIPAC FIRST FOR SMALL SEEDS
- ❖ USE A DRAG TO COVER SEED
- ❖ IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A GRAIN DRILL...EVEN BETTER!

- ❖ 1/4 INCH IS SUFFICIENT
 - ❖ FOR MOST SEED MIXES...
 - ❖ MAXIMUM DEPTH FOR CLOVERS!





GOOD STANDS RESULT FROM...



- ❖ PROPER SOIL PREP
- ❖ FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED SEED RATES
- ❖ PLANTING CORRECTLY



USE EXCLUDER CAGES

- ❖ LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH GRAZING PRESSURE YOU HAVE!





WOW!



- ❖ DEER HAVE CONSUMED 3 FEET OF GROWTH!
- ❖ THIS IS A POPULAR COMMERCIAL SEED MIX COMPRISED OF:
 - ❖ OATS
 - ❖ WHEAT
 - ❖ GRAIN RYE
 - ❖ CLOVERS



THINGS TO AVOID!

- ❖ “SCRATCH AND GO” FOOD PLOT MIXES...
- ❖ MIRACLE IN A BAG MIXES... IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT IS!!!
- ❖ SEED MIXES WHICH INCLUDE RYEGRASS
 - ❖ RYEGRASS IS NOT PREFERRED DEER FOOD!
 - ❖ IT WILL OVER GROW OTHER SEED TYPES, ESPECIALLY CLOWERS!
 - ❖ IT WILL BECOME A SERIOUS WEED IN YOUR PLOTS!

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO DO?



- ❖ TOP DRESS YOUR PLOTS WITH AMMONIUM NITRATE IN LATE WINTER
- ❖ 100 TO 150 POUNDS PER ACRE IS GENERALLY SUFFICIENT.



LONG TERM CARE

- ❖ SOIL TEST AT LEAST EVERY OTHER YEAR
- ❖ AVOID HERBICIDES IF POSSIBLE.
 - ❖ HERBICIDE USE CAN INHIBIT CERTAIN PLANTINGS
- ❖ MOW MONTHLY TO CONTROL SUMMER WEEDS AND PROMOTE TENDER NEW GROWTH.
 - ❖ TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE DROUGHT TOLERANT “FEEDS” DEER HAVE USED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS!



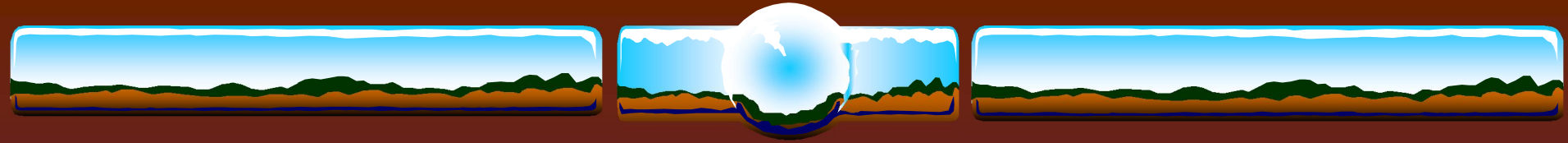
FOOD PLOT CHECK LIST

- ❖ KNOW YOUR ACREAGE...DON'T GUESS!
- ❖ GOOD GROUND PREPARATION
 - ❖ PLOW, DISK & SMOOTH
- ❖ GET YOUR SOIL TESTED!
- ❖ APPLY LIME & FERTILIZER ACCORDING TO RECOMMENDATION
- ❖ INNOCULATE LEGUME SEED OR BUY IT PRE-INNOCULATED. DON'T LET IT GET TOO HOT!
- ❖ BROADCAST OR DRILL SEED
- ❖ COVER LIGHTLY UP TO $\frac{1}{4}$ INCH DEEP!



POINT OF VIEW...

- ❖ DON'T TREAT YOUR PLOTS AS JUST A KILLING FIELD AND LEAVE THEM ALONE ONCE THE SEASON ENDS.
- ❖ TOP DRESS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE PARTICULAR CROP.
- ❖ PROVIDE LONG TERM NUTRITION FOR WILDLIFE!



Any Questions?

Thank
You!