

# Plant Descriptions

**Sorghums** - While deer will browse the young, tender growth and eat the grain, sorghums are most often used as a source of seed for all birds. They are widely adapted to most soil types. Can be planted anytime after the last frost through the summer, but have better results when planted from about April 15th through May.

\*Hybrid Grain Sorghum - Most often in red-seeded form. Typically grow about four feet tall. When planting for birds, use several different hybrids with different maturities so that seed will be produced continuously rather than once. 5-8 lbs/acre at 1½ " deep.

\*Hegari - A tall forage sorghum with large, white seeds. 30-40 lbs/acre at 1½ " deep.

\*Bird Feed 'N Cover - A quick-maturing, white sorghum sudangrass hybrid. 60-70 lbs/acre at 1" deep.

**Legumes:** Excellent summer browse for deer. Very palatable and high in protein and digestibility. Bird will eat the seed. Also excellent as a soil-builder. Can be planted anytime after the last frost through the summer, but will have better results when planted from about April 15 through May. Can also be planted in the late summer/early fall for fall attraction and nutrition although they will die with the first frost.

\*Iron & Clay Cowpeas - One of the most popular items planted for deer. Good protein levels. 20-45 lbs/acre at ½ to 1 inch deep.

\*Black-Eyed Cow Peas - Also excellent for deer. 25 - 45 lbs/acre at ½ - 1" deep.

\*Mungbeans - A high forage producer, but protein level is not as high. 25-45 lbs/acre at ½ inches deep.

\*Catjang Cowpeas - Late maturing. Can have very high protein levels. 25-45 lbs/acre at ½" to 1".

\*Laredo Soybeans - forage-type soybean with small, black seed. Fair protein levels. 25-45 lbs/acre at 1/2 " deep.

\*Lablab - Large-seeded, similar in appearance to cow peas. Touted for its drought and heat tolerance. Protect during establishment recommended. 15-25 lbs/acre at ½" deep.

**Millet**s - These are excellent addition for food plots for birds. They generally make seed in a relatively short period of time. Valuable for their ability to make a second seed crop with late summer rain showers. Deer will eat the young, tender growth. Can be planted anytime after the last frost through the summer, with adequate moisture.

\*Browntop Millet: Produces an abundance of seed in as little as 55-60 days. Excellent regrowth and seed production following period rainfall events. 10-20 lbs/acre at ¼ to ½ inches deep.

\*Dove Proso Millet: This shiny, golden-white seed is often found in bird feed mixes. Highly preferred by all birds. Matures in about 70 days. 15-25 lbs/acre at ¼ to ½" deep.

\*Foxtail Millet: Has fuzzy, foxtail-like seed head. Germinates very quickly, making it also good for erosion control. Matures in about 75 days. 10-20 lbs/acre at ¼ to ½ " deep.

\*Japanese Millet: Similar in appearance to Browntop Millet. Excellent for

waterfowl. Will tolerate partial submersion in water. Plant around ponds in summer when the water level has dropped, so that it will be partially flooded when the water level rises. 10-20 lbs/acre at ¼ to ½ inch deep.

\*Hybrid Pearl Millet: Very tall millet with long, compact cattail-like head. Seed is slightly larger and rounder than other millets, and has longer maturity. 15-25 lbs/acre at ½ to ¾ " deep.

**Sunflowers** - One of the best for birds. 5-6 ft tall. Very persistent. Will come back every year. Plant in December to get spring germination. 10 lbs/acre at ¼ - ½ " deep.

\*Small Black Sunflower: Grows 4-5 feet tall. 100-120 day maturity. Excellent for birds. Some areas may experience severe insect infestations. Check with County Agent. 15-25 lbs/acre - ¾" deep.

**Buckwheat** - Vining with triangular seed pods. 70-80 day maturity. 30-40 lbs/acre at ¼ to ½ inches deep.

**Chufa:** Sedge-like grass. Produces tubers, which are relished by turkey. 25-40 lbs/acre at 1½ " deep.

**Sesame:** Shatters great quantities of oily seed over a long period. Relished by birds. Matures in about 85 days. 10-12 lbs/acre at ½ to ¾" deep.