



60455 U.S. 31 South * South Bend, Indiana 46614 * Telephone 291-2300

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NEWSLETTER

WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT SEED AVAILABLE

In cooperation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, wildlife food plot seed is again being provided for winter food plot plantings. As in past years, the seed is in four pound packages consisting of grain sorghum and buckwheat. The four pound package will cover approximately one quarter acre if broadcast. There are also packages consisting of 50 pound bulk sorghum seed that should be broadcast at a rate of 10-12 pounds per acre. If a grain drill is used, 12 pounds of seed will be adequate for two acres. Ideal planting dates are May 15-June 15th.

According to the Division, winter wildlife are "edge eaters" and recommends that ideal planting conditions for the seed should be near existing wildlife cover. Areas located next to woods, ditches or fencerows are ideal locations to help provide food, as well as, cover for wildlife throughout the winter months. Size of plots should be in long, narrow strips instead of entire field plantings (ex: 10'x100' strips).

There is no cost for the wildlife seed and anyone that is interested in obtaining the food plot seed, should contact the SCS, SWCD or ASCS offices at 291-2300 or 291-7444 respectively.

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WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT RESIDUE?

It seems that all we hear about lately is residue. It's coming from every direction - governmental agencies, chemical dealers and farm implement dealers to name just a few. Why is it so important and how do you know how much residue is left in your fields?

Crop residue is a very important factor when figuring the amount of soil erosion in any particular field. The more residue left after planting a crop, the less the natural elements of wind and water can get to the soil and cause it to move or erode. Once soil leaves the field, the soil's fertility and productivity drop. Furthermore, the soil usually ends up where it's not wanted, often in roadside ditches, streams, rivers or lakes. This is detrimental to the quality of our water resources and the clean-up costs in these areas is very high.

The best way to determine how much residue is left in your crop field is to visually look at the crop residue levels and determine percent coverage from either actual residue measurements or from picture comparisons. Your local SCS office can further explain either method. Call the SCS/SWCD Office at 291-2300 if you would like more information on residue management.

1992 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

The individuals and organizations listed below are financial supporters of the conservation programs of the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District for 1992. We would like to sincerely thank each and every one of them for their support and cooperation towards the District's programs. Without their continued financial assistance, it would be extremely difficult for the District to grow and expand into new areas such as adult and youth education, water quality and general conservation practices.

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