



Top Ten Cream of the Crop Fall Deer Food Plot Crops - NORTH

TABLE 1. TOP TEN CREAM OF THE CROP FALL DEER FOOD PLOT PLANTS APPROPRIATE FOR NORTHERN U.S. (Not in order of value or preference).

TYPE (ANNUAL OR PERENNIAL)	SPECIES	SEEDLING VIGOR	SOIL ACIDITY	DROUGHT TOLERANCE	YIELD TONS/AC	% PROTEIN	% TOTAL DIGESTIBLE NUTRIENTS	BROADCAST RATE/ACRE** (PLANTED ALONE) (DRILLED =HALF)	VALUE RANK***	COST RANK****	PLANTING DATES	FERTILIZER (see footnotes)	MINIMUM pH	TREATMENT/COMMENTS (for lime required, see footnotes)
PERENNIAL	Alfalfa	G	P	E	3-6	21-29	57-62	20-30 lbs/acre	HIGH	HIGH	August & September	400 lbs/acre 0-20-30	6.5	Difficult to establish, high maintenance, needs weevil & weed control. All alfalfa needs inoculation
PERENNIAL	Ladino Clover	F	F	F	3-5	21-29	57-62	8-10 lbs/acre	HIGH	HIGH	August & September	300 lbs/acre 0-20-30	6.0	Mow frequently to control weed competition. Fertilize once per year in September. All clover needs inoculation.
PERENNIAL	Red Clover	E	F	F	2-4	17-26	57-62	12-15 lbs/acre	HIGH	MED	August & September	300 lbs/acre 0-20-30	6.0	Mow as needed to control grass competition. Fertilize once per year in September. All clover needs inoculation.
PERENNIAL	Birdsfoot Trefoil	P	G	G	1-3	18-26	57-62	4-6 lbs/acre	HIGH	HIGH	August & September	300 lbs/acre 0-20-30	5.5	Difficult & slow to establish, low maintenance. All trefoil needs Inoculation
PERENNIAL	Alsike Clover	G	G	F				8-12 lbs/acre	MED	HIGH	August & September	300 lbs/acre 0-20-30	5.5	Tolerates flooding & soil acidity All clover needs inoculation.
BIENNIAL	Sweetclover	F	P	G				10-15 lbs/acre	MED	MED	August & September	300 lbs/acre 0-20-30	6.5	Drought tolerant & winterhardy but intolerant of soil acidity.
ANNUAL	Wheat OR Rye	E E	F G	F G	1-4	15-26	54-60	90-120 lbs/acre	MED	LOW	August & September	300 lbs/acre 19-19-19	5.5	Rye may reseed if disked lightly in September
PERENNIAL	Chicory	G	G	E		10-30		5 lbs/acre	MED	HIGH	September	300 lbs/acre 19-19-19	5.5	Drought resistant, heavy nitrogen user.
ANNUAL	Turnips, Radishes	E	G	E	1-3	25-31		3-4 lbs/acre	HIGH	MED	August & September	300 lbs/acre 19-19-19	5.5	Very high production Most often grazed after frosts Large roots also eaten
ANNUAL	Rape (Canola)	E	G	G	1-3	22-31		4-8 lbs/acre	LOW	MED	August & September	300 lbs/acre 19-19-19	5.5	Can be shortlived. Deer use is sometimes light.

*Get soil test. In lieu of soil test apply 1-3 tons/acre lime and 300 lbs/acre 19-19-19 (or 600 lbs/acre 10-10-10) at planting.

**Broadcast rate in table only applies when planted in pure stand
One application of lime lasts for 3-5 years.

***Value rank considers production, utilization, quality, persistence, and palatability.

****Cost rank considers one time seed price only. Perennials and reseeding annuals are a real economic bonus after the first year.