

Forage Species for Deer in Virginia

<u>Species</u>	<u>Lbs./Ac.*</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Maintenance/Comments</u>
<i>Perennials</i>			
Ladino or white Dutch clover	5-10	8/15-10/1, 2/15-4/1	Mow above to remove weeds; fertilize in September
Red clover	5-10	8/15-10/1, 2/15-4/1	Mow above to remove weeds; fertilize in September
Orchardgrass or ryegrass	15-30	8/15-10/1, 2/15-4/1	Mow as needed to prevent domination over legumes
Matua bromegrass	15-30	8/15-10/1, 2/15-4/1	Mow as needed to prevent domination over legumes; mix with clover or chickory
Alfalfa	20-30	9/1-10/15, 3/1-4/15	High maintenance for weevils and weeds; fertilize and lime annually; good soils
Chickory	5-10	9/1-10/15	Apply nitrogen annually; drought resistant
Birdsfoot trefoil	5-10	9/1-10/15	Difficult to establish; low maintenance; mountains
<i>Cool season annuals</i>			
Korean, kobe, or common lespedeza	5-10	8/15-10/1, 2/15-4/1	Disk gently in fall to stimulate reseeding
Austrian winter pea	20-40	9/1-10/15	Disk gently in fall to stimulate reseeding
Crimson or arrowleaf clover	10-20	8/15-10/1	Disk gently in fall to stimulate reseeding; works well with oats and wheat
Subterranean clover	10-15	8/15-10/1	Grows in shade; reseeds well; plant with wheat
Rape, kale, turnips or canola	5-10	9/1-10/15	
Wheat, oats, rye, or triticale	30-60	8/15-11/1	With legumes to hold soil and to provide quick forage while legumes mature
<i>Warm season annuals</i>			
Cowpeas, lab-lab, or soybeans	40-80	5/1-6/15	Sensitive to overgrazing; plant large areas and with sorghum or millet
Joint vetch	10-20	5/15 – 6/30	Killed by first frost; good in coastal areas
Alsike clover	3-8	5/15 – 6/30	Killed by first frost; good in coastal areas
Sorghum	5-10	5/1-6/15	If grain variety, let stand through winter
Corn	10-20	4/15-5/15	Difficult and expensive to grow
Buckwheat	25-50	4/15-6/15	All soils

*Rates for broadcasting seeds of a single species. If drilling in seeds, cut rate above in half. If mixing with another species, chose low end of seed rate for each species selected.