



2017 Wildlife Food Plot Variety Trial

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Dwight Sexton, CEA-Ag, Gonzales Co.; Julie Zimmerman, CEA-Ag, Caldwell Co.; Rachel Bauer, CEA-Ag, Bastrop Co.; Travis Franke and Jeff Hanselka, CEAs-Ag, Guadalupe Co.

Cooperator: The Luling Foundation Farm

Location: Luling, Texas

Situation: Supplemental nutrition for deer and other wildlife provides an attraction for wildlife, as well as providing nutrition for increased growth and reproduction. With many companies providing wildlife food plot seed, little research has been done to show yields that can be expected relative to the investment provided.

Objectives:

- 1) Demonstrate proper management practices.
- 2) Compare establishment, yields, and other characteristics of several wildlife food plot blends.

Method: Tillage: The seed bed was disked twice, and a firm seed bed was established. The seed was drilled, and then a roller-packer followed to improve the seed-soil contact.

Planting Date: October 25, 2016

Plot size: Plot sizes were 12 feet wide, and had a length of 50 feet, with three replications randomly located in the field. The plots were harvested on two occasions with a sub-sample size collected of 1

square foot. Following the harvest of each sub-sample, the plots were shredded in an effort to simulate grazing and reduce lodging.

Seeding Rate: 8-96 lbs./acre, as per supplier's request.

Fertilizer: 250 lbs. of 24-8-0 were applied on 11/2/2016 to the non-legume plots.

Harvest: The plots were harvested on March 6 and April 29, 2017. These results are listed in Table 1.

Multiple Year Averages: An average of previous year's harvest is compiled in Table 2.

Results

Table 1.

2017 Luling Foundation Winter Forage Variety Trial

Variety	Cutting	Cutting	Total	
	3/6/2017	4/29/2017		
Wildlife Food Plot				
Buck Buffet Fall Legume Blend	1016	2468	3485	<i>abc</i>
Buck Buffet Cereal Blend	2323	0	2323	<i>c-f</i>
Buck Buffet Triple Pea Blend	1307	0	1307	<i>f</i>

Means followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=.05, Duncan's New MRT)



Wildlife Food Plot Trials												
Variety	2001	2002	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Attractor Supreme					6534							
Best Buck Fall Wildlife Blend									2904			
Biologic New Zealand Premium Perennial	5809											
Biomax Plowdown Blend						9148						
Indy Forage Blend									3775			
Magnum Buck Vittles						2178						
Magnum Rack Builder Clover Blend							3775					
Magnum Rack Builder Plus					2033			5808				
Magnum Wildlife Blend			4653									
Medic/Ryegrass Blend			5792									
PastureMax Clover Ryegrass Blend						9293						
Rack Builder Fall Blend				6825								
Rack Builder Plus				4647								
Rackmaster						10164						
Rackmaster Deer Greens					5953							
Rackmaster Fall Deer Mix					6824							
Rack King Deer Plot 2019				5953								
Rack King Deer Plot RKF 2004				8422								
Rack King Plus						10164	5227					
Tecomate Fall Max Attract 'AL' Mixture		6045										
Typhon/Ryegrass Blend			7704									
Wildlife Nutrition Big Buck Xcellerator	7981	7360										
Wildlife Nutrition Fall Blend	8980	6074										

*Averaged yield includes only varieties trialed since 2009. All other varieties trialed are listed, but not averaged across years.

** Reported in pounds of dry matter per acre.

Conclusions:

The plot was planted into dry conditions in the Luling area. The following growing season included limited moisture, with below average growing conditions. Spring rains came late to affect the conditions for the plots.

Also of interest, and not evaluated in this study, is the price variance per pound of seed and the recommended planting rates, as well as palatability of these forages at various growth and maturity stages. Producers should decide if they are getting the best return for their investment, and weigh the different wildlife blend advantages and disadvantages accordingly.

Producers should note that the totals accumulated from this study represent results under the conditions that were present during this trial, and may not see the same results under their own growing conditions. Results over multiple years are needed to give producers a true indication of trends that can be expected with different varieties.

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