

(327) Conservation Cover—Perennial Food Plot

FY 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Requirement Sheet

A site- and species-specific wildlife habitat management plan is preferred for all EQIP applications. If no such plan has been approved by the NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist, the conservation planners must follow this requirement sheet to address limiting habitat factors identified in the TN NRCS Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG).

Eligible lands: Private agricultural land and private nonindustrial forestland needing additional wildlife food sources. Applies to pasture, cropland, idle grassy areas, and other lands suitable for creation and/or enhancement of wildlife food sources and habitat.

EQIP Perennial Food Plot Practice Requirements:

1. **Soil test required for all permanent herbaceous plants.** (University of Tennessee or any certified NAPTP Lab). Areas of contrasting soils, problem spots or portions of fields significantly different should be sampled separately, provided the area can be fertilized separately. Examples: bottomland and upland. See University of Tennessee publication PB 1061 ([UT PB1061](#)) for soil sampling information.
2. Apply lime and fertilizer as required by soil test. Lime and fertilizer are not required for temporary cover containing no legumes.
3. Each perennial food plot will be no less than 0.25 ac or more than 3.0 ac in size.
4. Maximum acreage allowed for perennial food plots will not exceed 10 percent of the open land acres in the treatment unit.
5. Seeded areas shall not be grazed by domestic livestock for the practice life.
6. Must be planned in conjunction with another habitat practice, unless waived by the NRCS Area Biologist or NRCS partner biologist.

Follow FY 2017 Approved Seeding Mixtures document for species selection, rates, and mixtures.

NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist may approve alternative species, rates, and mixtures.