

Native Forb and Non-native Legume Interseeding Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
University of Missouri Extension – The School of Natural Resources

For:	County:	
Field(s):	Farm #:	
Date:	Tract #:	Acres:
Designed By:	Contact Information:	

INTERSEEDING NATIVE FORBS AND/OR NON-NATIVE LEGUMES INTO EXISTING GRASSLANDS IMPROVES HABITAT FOR QUAIL

PURPOSE:

Native forb and non-native legume interseeding is used to increase plant diversity in wildlife friendly warm- and cool-season grass plantings or in old field habitats. Interseeding not only provides wildlife with a food source, but can also create excellent brood habitat for upland wildlife during the summer. Interseeding is best accomplished after a management practice has been completed, such as prescribed burning, strip disking or herbicide strip spraying.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Interseeding of non-native legumes can be completed any time from December 1 through March 15 in north Missouri, and from December 16 through February 29 in south Missouri for dormant seeding. Non-native legumes may also be seeded in the spring (March 16 to May 31 for north MO, March 1 to May 15 in south MO) or the fall (August 1 to October 15th in north MO, August 16 to October 15 in south MO).

Native forbs should be interseeded from November 16 to March 15 in north MO, December 1 to February 29 in south MO. For native forbs, refer to the Native Forb Information Sheet (IS-MO643F) for more information.

Interseeding should be used in conjunction with a management practice. Prescribed burning, strip disking or herbicide strip spraying are excellent choices. Prescribed grazing may also be used to prepare fields for overseeding. Be aware that program policies may completely restrict or limit grazing activities.

Conduct a management practice at a time of the year that will set back the dominant grasses and vegetation (such as summer burning or fall strip disking a warm-season grass dominated field). Generally, management practices should be completed in the summer or fall/winter period to prepare the site for interseeding during the dormant or spring season.

Seed may be broadcasted or no-till drilled. Native forb seed may need to be mixed with an inert carrier such as cat litter, pelletized lime, and sawdust or rice hulls to evenly distribute the seed across the entire field. Use a 50:50 ratio of seed to carrier.

Do not interseed with *Serecia lespedeza*, birds foot trefoil, crown vetch or sweet clover.

Interseed native forbs at the rate of 3 to 5 PLS pounds/acre with a minimum of 9 species, with annuals and biennials not to exceed 10% of the mix. No single species shall exceed 15% or less than 1% of the mix. Refer to the Native Forb Information Sheet (IS-MO643F), Prairie Information Sheet (IS-MO643P), Savanna Information Sheet (IS-MO643S), or the Glade Information Sheet (IS-MO643G) for recommended species.

- Good non-native legumes to interseed include red clover, ladino clover, alfalfa and annual/common lespedeza. Non-native legumes are the best choice for cool-season grass fields. Legume inoculants should be used to ensure good germination and plant vigor.

Recommended non-native legumes and rates are as follows:

Dominant Grass Type/Planned Use	Legume	50% Rate
Warm-season Grass (WSG)	Alfalfa, or	3.8#
	Lespedeza, or	3.8#
	Alfalfa (30%) and	2.3#
	Lespedeza (20%)	1.5#
Cool-season Grass (CSG)		
for Quail	Same as WSG	
Green Browse for deer/turkey/rabbit	Ladino clover	1.5#
General Wildlife	Alsike clover, or	1.6#
	Red clover, or	3.0#
	Ladino clover, and	0.5#
	Alsike clover, and Red Clover (1/3 rate each)	0.5# 1.0#

MAINTENANCE:

- Use approved herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.
- Continue to disturb fields on a two or three year rotation by burning, disking or spraying herbicides. Prescribed grazing may also be used on a 2 or 3-year rotation to create a periodic disturbance. These practices will setback grasses and create bareground habitat. If possible, disturb no more than one-third of the field in a year.

PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Provide a natural cover and food source for quail and other wildlife.

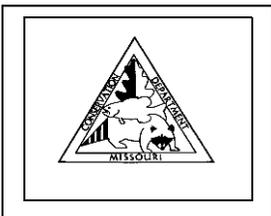
REFERENCES:

Refer to the following job sheets, information sheets or detailed management plan for additional information.

JS-BIOL-30 Controlling Undesirable Species	IS-MO643P Prairie Information Sheet
IS-MO338 Prescribed Burning Information Sheet	IS-MO643S Savanna Information Sheet
IS-MO643G Glade Information Sheet	IS-MO643forbs Native Forb Information Sheet
NRCS Standards 645, 338, 723, 643	

Consult with NRCS, MDC, or University Extension for additional recommendations.

Comment:



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