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2010 Wildlife Food Plot Variety Trial

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
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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) To demonstrate proper management practices.
2) To 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: November 2 and 3, 2009

Fertilizer: 100 lbs of 18-46-0 was applied in January 2009 prior to planting a soybean crop that was subsequently plowed out due to drought.

Plot size: Plot sizes were 10 feet wide, and had a length of 50 feet, with three replications randomly located in the field. The plots were harvested on three 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.

Harvest: The plots were harvested on February 22, and April 6, 2010. These results are listed in Table 1.

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

Results

Table 1. 2010 Wildlife Food Plot Variety Trial.

Variety	Cutting 2/22/2010	Cutting 4/6/2010	Total	
Magnum Rackbuilder	3775	4792	**8567**	ab
Magnum Rackbuilder Plus	2468	3340	**5808**	e-k
Buck Buffet Cereal Blend	3340	2323	**5663**	f-l
Buck Buffet Fall Triple Pea Blend	1597	2759	**4356**	j-p
Buck Buffet Fall Legume	1742	2178	**3920**	k-q
Magnum Chicory	871	1815	**2686**	o-s

*Reported in pounds of dry matter per acre.
**Means followed by the same letter do not significantly differ (P=.05, Duncan's New MRT)
***Mean comparisons performed only when AOV Treatment P(F) is significant at mean comparison OSL.

Table 2. Multiple Year Summary of Wildlife Food Plot Varieties.

Variety	2001Total	2002Total	2003Total	2005 Total	2006 Total	2007 Total	2008 Total	2010 Total	3 Yr. or more Average
Magnum Rack Builder					7696	9728	3630	8567	**7405**
Buck Buffet Wildlife Cereal Blend	7764	6836	4912	8422	5372	8131	4356	5663	**6432**
Rack King Wildlife Blend			5874		6534		5663		**6024**
Buck Buffet Legume Blend	5947	714	4991	4501	3340	6389	1597	3920	**3925**
Forage Feast Chicory							1742		
Forage Feast Chicory ZEBA Coated							1888		
Lacerta Chicory						7115			
Magnum Chicory								2686	
Nemfix Mustard						5372			
Typhon Forage Brassica		2430	5321						
Voitex Turnip				4646					

Wildlife Food Plot Trials									3 Yr. or more
Variety	**2001Total**	**2002Total**	**2003Total**	**2005 Total**	**2006 Total**	**2007 Total**	**2008 Total**	**2010 total**	**Average**
Attractor Supreme					6534				
Biologic New Zealand Premium Perennial	5809								
Biomax Plowdown Blend						9148			
Buck Buffet Fall Triple Pea Blend								4356	
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 Fall Blend						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							

* Reported in pounds of dry matter per acre.

** 2004 Data was removed due to statistical error

*** 2009 Data was not collected due to crop failure of all varieties due to drought.

Conclusions:

Following a record drought during the Spring and Summer, the plot was planted into wet conditions in the Luling area. The Winter and Spring were wet with optimum rain conditions at the test site.

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 more years are needed to give producers a true indication of trends that can be expected with different varieties.

We wish to thank the following groups for assisting with this trial: The Luling Foundation, Mike Kuck, manager, and his staff, for assisting with this trial; W. James Grichar, TAES-Beeville for assistance with the statistical analysis; and the following companies for donating seed for this trial: Parker Seed Co., LaVernia; Pogue Seed Company, Kenedy.

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.

Disclaimer Clause: