



# FOOD PLOTS IN 7 EASY STEPS AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING TO GROW BIGGER BUCKS & HEALTHIER DEER



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Todd Sittleburg - Founder of Antler King®



Don Kisky - Whitetail Freaks TV



Planting food plots is the single most effective way of attracting, growing, and keeping deer on your property. When thinking about what and where to plant, you should strive to plant between five and ten percent of your total acreage with as much variety in plant species as possible. Also strive to have a Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter food source on your property to keep your herd coming to your property year round.

Whether you have been planting for years or it is your first time, following these seven easy steps will ensure that you maximize your food plot potential. Planting a successful food plot will attract, grow, keep deer on your property and offer your deer a nutrient rich diet. Deer need protein, energy, and minerals and vitamins on a daily basis to achieve maximum antler growth and body size.

Antler King® food plot seeds may offer the deer the protein and energy they need, but you can also offer mineral rich supplements like Antler King's® TROPHY DEER MINERAL, POWER RACK, APPLE BURST DEER MINERAL along with Antler King's® HI PROTEIN BIG BUCK BLOCK, ENERGY PLUS WILDLIFE BLOCK and APPLE BURST MINERAL BLOCK, these products can offer your deer the minerals and vitamins they need to maximize antler growth and body size.

Although 5-10% of your property in food plots should be your goal, keep in mind that any amount of land you set aside for food plots will have a positive impact on your deer herd.

Kandi Kisky with son, Kaleb - Whitetail Freaks TV



## STEP 1

### SOIL TESTING

After choosing an area that gets a generous amount of sunlight in any given day, the most important part of planting a food plot is taking a soil test using Antler King's® pH Soil Test Kit. For the best growing results, a pH reading of 7.0 is desired, where a pH level of 5.5 may result in poor germination and stunted plant species.

Take a soil test from different areas around your plot to get a good overall consensus of the soil composition.



## STEP 2

### CONDITIONING SOIL & ELIMINATING WEEDS

If there are existing weeds in your future plot area, it is important to eliminate them with the use of a glyphosphate chemical such as RoundUp.

Prior to planting, it is not necessary to spray a weed killer in a newly graded area or an area that does not have weeds. Instead, spray on Antler King's® PLOT MAX, this is a great soil conditioner. Doing so will help maximize your food plot performance.

**TIP:** After spraying RoundUp, wait seven days before tilling. Keep in mind a soil conditioner such as Antler King's® PLOT MAX can be mixed in with any chemical weed killer and applied at the same time. So with one pass on your plot, you can apply the PLOT MAX and weed killer all at the same time.



## STEP 3

### LIMING - ADDING PH TO SOIL

Liming raises the pH in your soil, which allows plants to fully utilize the fertilizer that you spread on your plot. Although it may take several tons of lime to raise the soil to a desired pH, you may not have to add lime again for many years.

Lime comes in several forms. Agricultural lime, which is delivered in bulk, and pelletized lime, which comes in bags.

Once the pH reading reaches 7.0, you have created the perfect environment for plants to thrive.





## FERTILIZING

### STEP 4

Prior to tilling, you will want to spread fertilizer, which provides food to plants for proper root development and continued growth. Fertilizer bags have a three number sequence. The first number stands for the amount of Nitrogen in the bag, the second number stands for Phosphorus, and the third number stands for Potassium.

Then after plants emerge Antler King's® JOLT foliar fertilizer can be used to supply plants with food and promote continued growth. This will maximize the tonnage of forage on your plot.

### STEP 5

## PROPER TILLING

Tilling is necessary to work the lime, fertilizer, and soil conditioner into the soil. Proper tilling with the use of implements such as a disc, roto-tiller or harrow, will work up the top 4 to 8 inches of soil. This creates a perfect seed bed to allow more seeds to germinate, creating maximum tonnage on your plot.



### STEP 6

## SEEDING YOUR PLOT

For smaller seeds, it is best to cultipack or roll your plot. Doing this will create a firm seed bed. Next, broadcast your seed and cultipack or roll again, which creates proper seed-to-soil contact. Small seeds need to be less than a 1/4" deep when planted.

For larger seeds, use a planter, a drill or a pull-behind spreader to dispense the seeds. Then drag the seeds to lightly cover them. Plant these seeds up to 1/2" deep.



### STEP 7

## MAINTAINING YOUR FOOD PLOT



Your food plot will get a lot of grazing pressure from the resident deer herd. As long as you can maintain enough forage on your plot, you will continue to attract deer to your plot and keep them on your property. Using JOLT, Antler King's® liquid foliar fertilizer, is a simple and effective way to provide plants with food to ensure continued growth.

To maximize tonnage on your food plot, wait until the plants are at least three inches high, then apply JOLT every three to four weeks.



**Helpful Hints for planting in the fall:** Usually the best time to plant a fall food plot like Antler King's® HONEY HOLE, SLAM DUNK, FALL/WINTER/SPRING or TROPHY CLOVER MIX, would be during the months of July and August in the North, or September and October in the South. This ensures that the plants can

become established and achieve their full potential before a killing frost. Antler King's® RED ZONE and NO SWEAT are normally planted in the spring, but you can also be successful planting these two mixes during the summer and early fall also.

A couple of things to keep in mind when planting in the fall are that it is usually pretty dry. Try to keep an eye on the weather and try to time planting right before a rain. Another way to help your plots survive a dry spell is to spray with Antler King's® PLOT MAX. It raises pH, creates organic matter and unlocks nutrients in the soil. It also really helps with moisture retention in the soil.

**Liming:** If you are planting a fall food plot you will want to spread the necessary amount of lime prior to tilling. This is not only beneficial to your fall food plot but it is also very beneficial to your spring food plot as well. Raising your pH is not an overnight process, lime takes a variant amount of time to break down and react in the soil. The amount of time depends on how much rain you get and what type of lime you use. As a general rule of thumb pelletized lime will break down faster but you will have to lime more often than you would if you use an agricultural lime. By spreading lime in the fall you give your soil all winter to break down the lime.

**RoundUp:** If you are not planning on putting in a fall plot but would like to use the same area to create a spring plot it would be beneficial to spray with a weed killer in the fall. This kills everything off and let's the plant matter break down into usable organic material over the winter. Come spring your soil will be easier to till up and much more fertile!

*Good Luck!*

## NO TRACTORS OR EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO PLANT FOOD PLOTS?

**Antler King's® NO SWEAT is the Answer to Minimum or No Till Situations.**

For BEST results without the use of tractors and equipment, follow these simple steps...

1. Select an area that will get at least 4 hours of sunlight per day. Areas that have full sunlight will allow the plants in NO SWEAT to produce even more forage.
2. Take a soil test to determine the pH level of the plot and apply enough lime to raise the pH to a 6.0 or above. If you do not take a soil test, spread 500 lbs. of pelletized lime per 1/4 acre plot.
3. Spread 50-75 lbs. of 13-13-13 or 19-19-19 fertilizer on your plot.
4. If there are existing weeds on the proposed plot, eliminate them by spraying with a contact weed killer such as RoundUp. When using RoundUp or a similar weed killer, mix Antler King's® PLOT MAX in the same tank as the weed killer and with one pass you will eliminate the weeds and apply PLOT MAX. The PLOT MAX will help raise the pH, aerate the soil, raise organic matter, help the soil retain moisture and create an environment for the plants to thrive and maximize their growth potential.
5. Wait at least 7 days for the weed killer to kill the weeds.
6. Broadcast the Antler King's® NO SWEAT seeds on the 1/4 acre plot and, if at all possible, use a cultipacker or roller to press the seeds into the ground. Making good seed to soil contact will ensure more seeds germinating and ultimately a thicker food plot with more plants for the deer to consume. If you cannot cultipack or roll the seeds, broadcast the seeds prior to a rain and the rain will help ensure seed to soil contact.
7. After the plants are 3 inches tall, you can spray the plot with Antler King's® JOLT Foliar Fertilizer. JOLT has been formulated to provide plants food for growth. The use of Antler King's® JOLT Foliar Fertilizer can greatly increase the tons of forage you can produce on this plot. **More Food Means More Deer.** We see the best results by spraying plots monthly with Antler King's® JOLT Foliar Fertilizer.

