

PHEASANTS FOREVER

Miami Valley Chapter

Dedicated to Returning the Ring-necked Pheasant to the Miami Valley

6134 US Rte 127

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Spring Planting of Native Grasses and Wildflowers on Small Areas Using the Broadcast Method

February 2005 – J. P. Costanzo

1. Mow vegetation short after it breaks dormancy and begins growing (March). Cutting stimulates growth and improves effectiveness of herbicide treatment.
2. When vegetation is actively growing (early April), apply broad-spectrum contact herbicide (Round-up[®] or other glyphosate product) at a rate of 2 quarts per acre (1 pint per 5,500 ft²). Ammonium sulfate may be added to the spray solution to improve burn-down. Apply solution using a tank sprayer with boom to achieve an even, uniform application.
3. When soil conditions permit, rototill the soil to cut out the clumps of dead sod. Till only as deep as is necessary to remove the dead vegetation (approx. 2-3"). If necessary, rake to remove clumps in order to prepare a smooth seed bed. Firm soil with roller, ATV, or other means.
4. After most of the weed seeds have germinated and the plants are growing well (early to mid May), re-apply broad-spectrum contact herbicide (Round-up[®] or other glyphosate product). The spray solution may contain the selective herbicide Plateau[®], which should be applied at a rate of 3 oz. per acre. This herbicide works with the glyphosate to burn down existing weeds, but also remains active in the soil for several months, inhibiting the germination and growth of additional weeds. For best results, Plateau[®] should be tank mixed with an adjuvant (methylated seed oil) as per manufacturer's recommendation.
5. Allow 3-7 days after herbicide application before seeding. Well mix the seeds to be planted. For best results, use a hand-held broadcast seeder (e.g., Truax Seed Slinger) to uniformly distribute grass and wildflower seed over the ground. Divide seed into two lots, seeding the first lot in a north-south pattern, and the second lot in an east-west pattern. When finished, firm the seed into the seedbed with roller, ATV, or other means. *Use no fertilizer—this will benefit weeds more than the grasses and wildflowers.* If the ground is level and erosion risk is minimal, do not use straw or other mulch, which may introduce weed seeds.
6. If noxious weeds (e.g., Canada thistle, Johnsongrass) or troublesome perennials (orchardgrass, tall fescue, alfalfa) appear, remove them by manual pulling or by spot spraying.