

FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS OF SULLIVAN COUNTY, INC.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT FUNDING APPLICATION

- Application must be signed by an officer of club on record with the Federation Secretary
- Copies of receipts for habitat improvement must be submitted with this application
- On reverse side of this application, provide a hand-drawn map indicating sites and projects or attach separate map

Club Name: _____

Club Address: _____

Township in which work was done: _____

Owner of property (if not club owned): _____

Each project will be inspected by the Habitat Committee Chairman or other person assigned.

Please list contact person and alternate for inspection:

1.) Name _____ Phone _____

2.) Name _____ Phone _____

I hereby affirm that this application is true and correct:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Submit completed application to:

Fred Bosch

79 Stege Road

Highland Lake, NY 12743

845-557-8030

FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS OF SULLIVAN COUNTY, INC.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT DETAILS

	Number or Acreage	Date Completed	Cost	Inspector's Comments
Food Plot Planting				
Rejuvenation Of existing Plots				
Tree Planting				
Pruning Fruit Trees				
Brush Piles (Small Game)				
Brush Piles (Fish)				
Clear Cutting				
(Food plot and tree planting require submission of receipts)				

- Clubs must sell 20 books of Federation Sweepstakes tickets to be eligible for habitat reimbursement funds
- Applications are due no later than September meeting
- All projects must be inspected one week prior to the October meeting

FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS OF SULLIVAN COUNTY, INC.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT GUIDELINES

1. **Eligibility:** Each club must sell 20 books of Federation Sweepstakes tickets to be eligible for habitat and pheasant programs.
2. **Food Plot Planting:** After preparing the site by use of herbicide and/ or tilling this year, food plot planting may consist of: Lime; Commercial fertilizer & seed used during the planting of Rye; Buckwheat; Corn; Alfalfa; Brassica; Trefoil; Millet; Clover; Corn. All plantings must be left standing. Minimum size plot is ½ acre. \$100 per half acre with \$400 limit.
3. **Rejuvenating Food Plots:** Lime and/ or fertilizer may be used to rejuvenate an existing food plot as indicated by soil analysis. \$50 per half acre with a \$200 limit. (no hay fields)
4. **Tree Planting:** Fruit or nut trees \$20 per tree. All newly planted trees must be deer proofed with wire fence or tree tubes. Trees must be alive when inspected. Fencing must be removed when trees are producing fruit or nuts. Maximum tree planting project limit \$200.
5. **Pruning Fruit Trees:** Trees must have produced fruit previously and be pruned in conformance with guidelines (see attached instructions). \$15 per tree with \$150 limit.
6. **Brush Pile:** (small game or fish) Minimum size – 8'x 8' x 5' and must be new piles this year. Small game brush piles must have a proper base (see attached instructions) Adding new brush to existing pile does not qualify. \$10 per pile with a \$100 limit.
7. **Clear Cutting:** A maximum of two oak trees may be left per acre. \$75 per half acre with \$100 limit.
8. **Inspections:** Each project will be inspected by Habitat Committee Chairman or designee. Projects must be inspected at least one week prior to the October meeting or payment will be denied. Clubs must make certain the contact person is available for inspection. Inspectors must have completed inspections delivered to Chairman one week prior to the October meeting.
9. **Annual Habitat Funds Limit:** \$500 per year is the maximum reimbursement per club. If total dollars applied for exceeds Federation Habitat budget, the Habitat Chairman will reduce all payments accordingly.
10. **Food Plot Size:** One acre equals 43,560 square feet or 100' x 435.6' or 208.7' x 208.7'. One half acre equals 100' x 217.8' or 147.6' x 147.6'. Field plantings less than one half acre do not qualify for reimbursement.
11. **Application deadline:** All applications and documentation must be submitted no later than the September meeting. No funds will be paid prior to the October meeting.
12. **Receipts:** Food plot and tree planting projects require submission of receipts.

*****no exceptions to any of the above rules*****

Chairman: Fred Bosch
79 Stege Road
Highland Lake, NY 12743
845-557-8030

Inspectors: Hank Samyn
Joe Kaiser
Deming Lindsley
Gary Muthig

PLANTING FRUIT AND NUT TREES

- Dig a large hole, at least twice as wide and about as deep as the root system. Most roots grow laterally and need plenty of room to spread out. Your trees will benefit if the hole is at least 3 feet wide.
- Loosen up the soil at the bottom of the hole and especially around the sides.
- If available, you may add 5 gallons of well-aged compost.
- Replace the topsoil around the roots where it will do the most good.

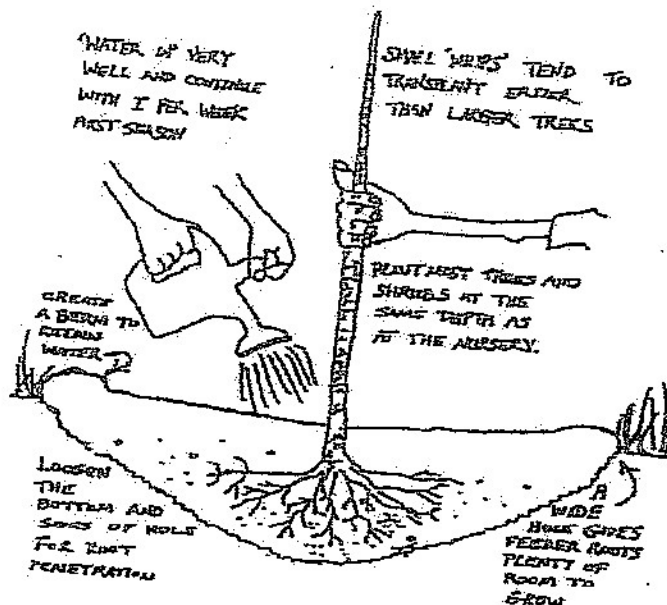
If you situate non-fruit trees according to their requirements, there is no need to add any supplements to your soil. This is the best way to ensure that your plants will thrive for many years.

For best results, plant on cool cloudy days in the early morning or late afternoon. Soak deciduous trees and shrubs for up to 24 hours before planting. Keep the roots from drying out, even a few minutes in the sun and breeze can kill a tree or shrub. Keep them in a bucket of water as you plant.

Generally, you should plant trees and shrubs at the same depth that they grew in the nursery. You should be able to see a "dirt line" or a change in bark color indicating nursery depth. Spread the roots out as you set the trees in the holes. Make a mound at the bottom of the hole over which to spread the roots. Give your trees plenty of water to "puddle in" as you plant. Wiggle the trunk as the water seeps in to ensure that the roots are settled in with no air pockets. Leave a berm around each tree so water will seep in and not run off. Keep them well watered throughout the first summer. They require the equivalent of 1-2 inches of rain per week. A good soaking is effective; sprinkling is not.

Initial Pruning at Planting Time:

Prune dead or injured branches and roots on all trees and shrubs. Further pruning of most trees is not necessary at planting time. Do not prune tops or prune or bend tap roots of nut trees.



PRUNING FRUIT TREES FOR WILDLIFE

Deer will prune fruit trees up to about 6 feet, (the Brouse Line). It is best to develop a central leader system with scaffold at about a 60 degree angle to the trunk starting at the 5' or 6' level.

Trees naturally produce branches at a sharp angle to the trunk. When small (the size of a wooden match), future scaffold branches should be selected and trained by forcing them to grow at a 90 degree + angle to the trunk for 2 months by use of clothespins, wood toothpicks, etc. Thus trained, the scaffold branches should grow close to the desired 60 degree angle. Scaffold branches should rotate around the trunk, similar to treads on a spiral staircase.

Other branches that crowd or cross a scaffold branch should be removed. Generally, a branch being removed should be cut just beyond a bud or small branch pointing in the direction you want the branch to grow.

Pruning should be done each year, January thru March (before budding).

By bearing age, fencing must be removed, but small mesh fencing may be loosely wrapped around the first 4 foot or so of the trunk, as protection from bucks rubbing the bark off.

After the trees have borne their first fruit, they are eligible for the Federation Cost Sharing for Pruning.

During March to early April, a bearing fruit tree may be pruned in the following manner to receive cost sharing:

1. Remove all dead branches.
2. Study the tree and mark the scaffold branches so they are not accidentally cut.
3. Remove the branches crossing or close to a scaffold branch.
4. Being careful not to damage the fruiting spurs, remove the suckers (vertical shoots).
5. Following the advice in a good pruning book and remembering to cut the branches just beyond a small branch or bud growing in the direction you want the branch to grow, remove enough of the branches to shape the tree and allow light to reach the interior portion of the tree.

SOIL TESTING AND AMENDMENTS FOR FIELD PLANTING

A Laboratory Soil Test will tell you how much of what amendment your soil needs per acre or 1,000 sq.ft. to have a successful field planting or food plot. Laboratory Soil Test kits, where you put a dry sample of your field's soil in a small bag along with a completed form and mail it to a laboratory, can be obtained from:

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Liberty, NY 292-6180 @ \$16.00 per kit, or
Whitetail Institute, 800-688-3030 or on line: Whitetailinstitute.com @\$10.95 each.
Shipping is \$2.50 for all you order or free is you buy something else.

PREPARING YOUR FIELD SAMPLE:

- (A) Take 5-gallon pail, shovel, trowel and paper & pencil or pen to the field when it is not frozen.
- (B) Work the shovel blade full depth into the soil. An inch or so in back of where you worked it into the soil, work it in again and withdraw a slice of soil an inch or so thick.
- (C) With the trowel, discard dirt from both sides of the shovel blade until what is left on the shovel blade is the equivalent of 1" x 1" from the surface to 6" from the surface.
- (D) Put this sample in the pail.
- (E) Do this at least 6 times for a half-acre field, proportionally more for a larger field.
- (F) Write your club's name for that field on a piece of paper and put it in the pail.
- (G) Repeat this process for each field, keeping samples for each field separate.
- (H) On a cellar floor or on tables, place a large piece of cardboard or spread out newspapers.
- (I) Attach the paper with the field's name and spread the soil sample on the cardboard or newspaper.
- (J) Pick out and discard all stones and plant material.
- (K) When dry, mix the sample, spread out & using a trowel draw a line across the middle of the sample and discard half of the sample.
- (L) Mix again and repeat dividing and discarding until the sample size required and put the sample in the bag in the soil test package.
- (M) Fill out the required information (what you will plant is very important) and mail it.

FOLLOWING THE SOIL TEST RECOMMENDATIONS:

Lime: If the recommendation is for 3500 pounds of lime per acre and your field is 150' x 175' or .60 acre, $3500 \times .60 = 2100$ pounds or 42-50 pound bags. Lime takes time to raise the soil PH, so it should be spread and mixed with the soil as soon as practical.

Nitrogen: If the recommendation is for 58 pounds of nitrogen per acre and your field is 150' x 175' or .60 acre, $58 \times .60 = 35$ pounds or enough bags of fertilizer so that the first number on the bag x number of bags = 35.

Phosphorus: If the recommendation is for 116 pounds of phosphorus per acre and your field is 150' x 175' or .60 acre, $116 \times .60 = 70$ pounds or enough bags of fertilizer so that the second number on the bag x number of bags = 70.

Potash: If the recommendation is for 96 pounds of potash per acre and your field is 150' x 175' or .60 acre, $96 \times .60 = 57.8$ pounds or enough bags of fertilizer so that the third number on the bag x number of bags = 57.8.

Note: In this example, 7 - 50 pound bags of 5-10-10 supplies 35 pounds of Nitrogen, 70 pounds of Phosphorus and 70 pounds of Potash.

Magnesium: Magnesium is not supplied in a fertilizer bag but can be added to your field if you specify Dolomitic Limestone when you purchase your Limestone, as Dolomitic Limestone contains Magnesium (often 12%).

Building A Brush Pile

Brush Pile Components

Brush piles have two basic components—a base and a brushy top. The base raises the brush pile off the ground and creates tunnels for dens, nests and escape routes. The brushy top protects this space from predators.

Base materials can vary depending on what you have nearby. The most common materials are stones and logs. The stones should be about 8 to 12 inches in diameter and placed in three loose piles, each at the corner of a triangle. The logs, 4 to 6 inches in diameter, should be cut between 4 and 6 feet long and placed, log cabin-style, 4 feet high. Oak, black locust, cedar and other hardwoods make good bases because they resist rotting. Other good base materials include large stumps, cull logs or old fence posts. A few PVC pipes or drain tiles provide escape tunnels for small mammals.

As you build the base, add branches into the interior of the structure. After the base has been completed, pile on the brush—placing the larger, stouter limbs first, and smaller limbs last. You may need to occasionally place heavier branches on top to keep the stacked brush in place. Be sure to place the individual branches at different angles and directions to ensure that the materials lock together and form air spaces. After the pile reaches about 6 or 8 feet in height, begin placing branches around the sides. Occasionally stick branches into the pile with the large end first to add stability to the pile.

When finished, your brush pile should be about 6 to 8 feet high and 6 to 8 feet wide, and shaped like an igloo. You can also build smaller brush piles; they just won't attract as many animals. Encourage the growth of grasses and vines through your brush piles; they add density and permanence to the piles.

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Though your brush pile should last from ten to 15 years, it will require periodic maintenance. About every six years or so, add new brush to renew the pile. As the pile finally begins to deteriorate beyond usefulness, construct a new brush pile adjacent to the old one. Don't tear down the existing one, as you may be disturbing a few lingering tenants. By building next to the old pile, you will be providing a continuous source of cover.

Brush Pile Placement

Build most of your brush piles within or near woods. This is most easily accomplished after a timber sale. A good rule of thumb is to build two to four brush piles per acre, spaced about 100–150 feet apart. Forest wildlife quickly inhabit brush piles, especially after a harvest. Place others along fence rows or your yard border. Also, there are a few places not to place a brush pile. To avoid pest problems, locate your brush pile well away from your garden and house. No sense feeding the rabbits or attracting unwanted skunks and rodents. And, if attracting small mammals is your goal, don't place a brush pile under a snag where hawks and owls can launch their attack ... although they need to eat too.



Logs, old fence posts, rock piles and stumps make good brush pile bases.