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Hohl's Friendly Service



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Alfalfa – Late Summer Planting

Excerpts From: [Focus on Fall Forage](#) a UW Extension publication.

Complete article found at: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/files/2014/01/LSAlfalfa.pdf>



Seeding perennial forage species such as alfalfa during the late summer in Wisconsin can result in vigorous and productive stands when proper establishment practices are followed. First, when a small grain or vegetable crop is grown and harvest occurs before or during early August, growers may consider seeding alfalfa immediately after harvest. It is important to make sure that herbicide carryover from the previous crop will not prevent alfalfa seedling establishment.

What are the advantages of seeding alfalfa in late summer?

Late summer alfalfa establishment offers several advantages over traditional spring seedings. Weed and insect pests seldom limit stand establishment success. Using a pre-

plant incorporated herbicide or a companion crop is not recommended. Companion crops will compete too strongly with the developing alfalfa seedlings for moisture. Also, the first hard freeze will kill any annual weeds that may have germinated. Remember that soil temperatures are much higher in the late summer than they are in the early spring. With adequate moisture, alfalfa seedlings will germinate, grow and develop a crop canopy at a much faster rate.

Alfalfa yields of late summer seedings during the first production year are generally higher than yields of spring seedings during the establishment year. In fact, yields are often comparable to 2- and 3-year-old stands. By seeding alfalfa during the late summer, forage

producers can have the equivalent of an established stand the following spring. Additionally, springtime workload is reduced. Late summer alfalfa establishment may offer the most advantage to producers with heavy, poorly drained soils. It is on these types of soils where seedling diseases such as Pythium, Phytophthora root rot, and Aphanomyces root rot often limit alfalfa establishment in the spring. Because the soil is both warmer and dryer during the late summer, these diseases are much less of a concern.

According to our LaCrosse Rep., due to the weather over the last two years, pricing is likely to keep going up next year. We have Hohl's Supreme Alfalfa in stock, ready for your convenience.

Hohl's carries a wide variety of seeds and fertilizers to cover all of your lawn, field and food plot needs, along with much more!



Natural Guard, Insect Control (Diatomaceous Earth)

- Natural contact insecticide
- Causes abrasions on insects as they come in contact with product, resulting in loss of body fluids and dehydration
- Digestible by Earthworms, thus causing them no harm
- Very effective in controlling snails and slugs in bedding plant areas and around houses
- Controls: cockroaches, ants, earwigs, snails, slugs, and other listed crawling insects
- Use hand duster to apply light coating of dust to areas where pests may hide



August Starts The Fall Food Plot Planting Season



Food Plot 101:

Cereal Grains for Fall Foods plots may be very beneficial way to help rotate your Food Plots. Rye, Wheat & Oats grains are cool season annual grains that are high preference forage for deer. If soil pH and fertilizers are managed properly, Rye can provide 20-25% crude protein from fall through spring, prior to maturity. Rye can tolerate harsh winter conditions, lower pH, fertilizer levels and sandy soil better than Wheat and Oats.

Wheat does best with a soil pH between 6.0-7.0 and is tolerant to Heavy, wet clay soil. Oats are tender and palatable while tolerant to temperatures close to zero; deer will dig them out of snow. Oats thrive in moist, well-drained soil and are known to improve productivity of legumes when

planted together. Oats do best with a soil pH between 6.7-6.9.

Since deer like all grains equally, you should decide which grain is best for your food plot. If you received your soil sample back and your pH level is under 6.0 and you have sandy soil, you may want to consider Fall Rye. If your soil is heavy, with pH above 6.0, you may want to try Wheat. For pH levels over 6.5 you may try Oats. While either of these varieties may do well for you, this will offer an alternative for rotating your plots. It is always a good idea to rotate annual crops every 2-3 years. While brassica's are always a Fall favorite, if you have more than 1 plot, rotate your brassicas with the grains, or clover. You can still have a plot with Brassicas every year,

but keep moving them. If you have clover that has about reached its life, plant oats with it in the fall, to keep the plot active through the winter. In spring you can till it and plant something else. Eventually, with a good rotational system for both your annual and perennial food plots, you will spend less money on fertilizer and chemicals.

Reminder: Keep in mind, "Less is More" when planting! I can't tell you how many people come in wanting to seed way more than they need to, we always tell them to take our planting chart and follow it. When you put down too much seed, it will choke itself off and you will lose it all. If you have extra seed, save it and patch in any areas you may have gone too lightly on; you will get much better results.

Our Friendly and knowledgeable staff is here to assist you!

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