

Whitetail Oats PLUS

Make Sure It's a Fundamental Part of Your Food Plot System

By **Whitetail Institute Staff**

Photo by Charles J. Alsheimer

Whitetail Oats PLUS is one of the most exceptionally attractive and versatile food plot products on the market. As such, you should make it a fundamental part of your food plot plantings. In fact, it can be a great idea to order a little extra when you're buying your fall food plot seed. The benefits can really stack up.

Exceptional Attractiveness. It's no secret that attractiveness to whitetail deer is the number one requirement the Whitetail Institute demands of all its food plot products. Whitetail Oats PLUS is certainly no exception. The main component in Whitetail Oats PLUS is the most attractive oat variety the Whitetail Institute has ever tested.

The Whitetail Institute first heard about this oat variety through one of its worldwide agriculture contacts, a university research team. The researchers told the Institute about the oat variety that had been included in a university research project comparing how well different oat varieties performed as grain producers. According to the Whitetail Institute's source, the university researchers had removed the oat variety from the grain production tests and "shelved it" because it had been so heavily browsed by deer that it was not a good grain producer.

The Whitetail Institute was, for obvious reasons, very interested in exploring the variety's potential as a forage for use in food plots for deer. Initial tests included evaluating the variety's attractiveness to deer, how well it grew in different climates, and other performance characteristics related to use in food plots for deer. Those tests confirmed that the oat variety is high in sugar and extremely attractive to whitetails, well suited to a broad range of climates, and extremely winter-hardy.

Because of the oat's outstanding performance during Whitetail Institute testing, the Whitetail Institute purchased the rights to the variety and named it "Whitetail Oats." Whitetail Oats is the most attractive oat variety to deer the Institute has ever tested, and it is only available in Whitetail Institute products.



Unmatched Versatility. Whitetail Oats PLUS is truly a top performer when planted by itself. It's among the fastest food plot plantings to green up after planting, and it begins attracting deer right away. It can also be planted with other fall-planted food plot crops to add variety, early and late-season attraction and tonnage, and to act as a nurse crop.

Whitetail Oats PLUS as a "Nurse Crop." A nurse crop is basically a fast-growing secondary crop that's planted with a primary crop such as Imperial Whitetail Clover, Alfa-Rack PLUS, Vision, Extreme or Fusion in the same seedbed. Several characteristics of Whitetail Oats PLUS make it an ideal choice for this application. Below, I'll tell you how to plant Whitetail Oats PLUS as a nurse crop, but first, let's look at why it's such a great complement to fall-planted perennials.

First, all Whitetail Institute food plot seed components are evaluated for rapid emergence and seedling vigor. That's why all Whitetail In-

stitute food plot products can appear above ground so soon after planting. Whitetail Oats PLUS can do so even more quickly and, when planted as a nurse crop, will help the food plot green up more quickly and start attracting deer as soon after planting as possible.

A nurse crop of Whitetail Oats PLUS is also a great way to ensure that you'll have superb fall-planted food plots even if Mother Nature gets stingy with rain in late summer or early fall, limiting the growth of the perennial. Whitetail Oats PLUS can also germinate and grow with less moisture in the soil than is required for most other forages and can provide a highly attractive food plot for deer while the perennial seeds establish.

In addition, the plants in Whitetail Oats PLUS also have fibrous roots, which help hold the soil in place while the perennials establish. Whitetail Oats PLUS also creates a microenvironment of higher humidity near the soil surface that helps reduce evaporation of moisture

from the soil. This microenvironment, coupled with the water-holding benefits of the Whitetail Institute's RAINBOND seed coating can provide even greater protection for the perennial seedlings as they sprout and grow.

Sustained Attraction. Whitetail Oats PLUS doesn't just provide benefits during the first month or two after planting them with a perennial in the fall. They continue to boost attraction by adding variety to the stand, and they can keep providing benefits to turkeys and other wildlife well into the following spring.

How to Prepare the Seedbed and Plant a Fall Perennial with a Nurse Crop of Whitetail Oats PLUS

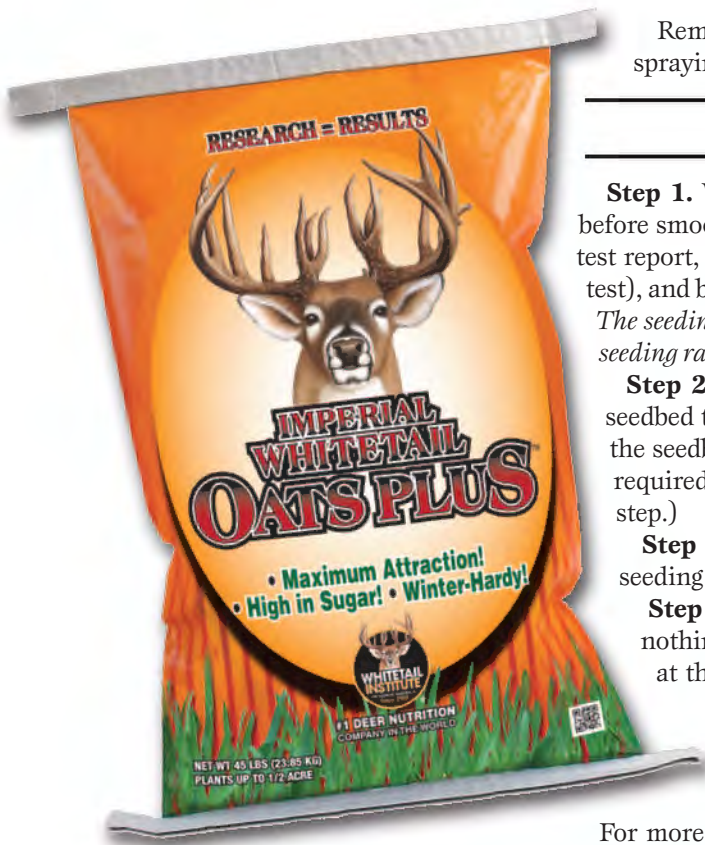
Preparing the seedbed and planting a perennial with a nurse crop of Whitetail Oats PLUS is very easy. With a couple of simple exceptions, just follow the planting dates for the perennial you'll be planting. You'll just need to adjust the seeding preparation and planting instructions a little.

Seedbed Preparation

As with any forage planting, it's best to have your soil tested by a qualified soil-testing laboratory such as Whitetail Institute to determine exact lime and fertilizer requirements. If possible, have your soil tested several months in advance of planting so that you can add any lime recommended and disk or till it into the seedbed well in advance of planting. *When you submit your soil sample to the lab, have the lab test for establishment of the perennial you'll be planting, not for the nurse crop.* If no soil test is performed, follow the general recommendations for lime on the back of the bag of the perennial seed.



Whitetail Oats PLUS is outstanding when planted by itself but can also be used as a fast-growing nurse crop that you can plant with a primary crop like Imperial Whitetail Clover.



Remove as much grass and weeds from the seedbed as possible by disking, tilling or spraying.

Planting

Step 1. When you reach your planting window, start by disking or tilling the soil. Then, before smoothing the disked or tilled seedbed, put out the fertilizer (as called for in your soil test report, or 400 pounds of 17-17-17 or equivalent fertilizer per acre if you didn't do a soil test), and broadcast the Whitetail Oats PLUS seed **at a rate of 30-45 pounds per acre.** (Note: The seeding rate for planting Whitetail Oats PLUS by itself is 90 pounds per acre. The reduced seeding rate of 30-45 pounds per acre is for using Whitetail Oats PLUS as a nurse crop.)

Step 2. Once you have put out the fertilizer and Whitetail Oats PLUS seed, drag the seedbed to lightly cover the Whitetail Oats PLUS seed. This will also smooth the surface of the seedbed sufficiently to prepare it for planting the perennial seed. (A cultipacker is not required, but if you have one, it's okay to cultipack instead of dragging to complete this step.)

Step 3. Once the seedbed has been smoothed, broadcast the perennial seed at its full seeding rate (shown on the front of the bag).

Step 4. Do not cover the perennial seed. If you used a drag at the end of Step 2, then do nothing further after you put out the perennial seed. However, if you used a cultipacker at the end of Step 2, then cultipack the seedbed again after putting out the perennial seed to help establish good seed-to-soil contact. With Mother Nature's cooperation, your nurse crop of Whitetail Oats PLUS will emerge quickly, and you'll see the perennials emerging soon after. The deer will start showing up soon after the seeds germinate.

For more information, visit whitetailinstitute.com, or call the Whitetail Institute at (800) 688-3030 to speak with one of our knowledgeable in-house consultants. The consultants are available from 8:00am-5:00pm, Central Time, Monday through Friday. The call and the service are free. 🦌

PLOTMASTER™

THE ULTIMATE PLOT PLANTING MACHINE



**Plants ALL types of seed
Including Seed Blends!!!**

**DISC, PLOW,
PLANT, COVER
AND CULTI-PACK
"ALL-IN-ONE"**



3 FT. / 4 FT. / 6 FT. / 8 FT.
ATV & Tractor Models Available!

888-MAX-GAME
www.theplotmaster.com



**FREE
HOW-TO
DVD**