



**POWERPLANT:**

# WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT

Managers of deer and other wildlife can see significant benefits from this blend.

■ by Jody Holdbrooks

**A**s of this writing, Oct. 6, 2022, we've had little rain in my home area of northwestern Alabama. Some mast crops are starting to fall. Otherwise, deer nutrition would be in shambles, because during this time, the woods are green, but natural foods are not so palatable or nutritious. Deer have just come through fawning and are still active in some areas. Also, bucks are rubbing the rest of their velvet.

During such periods, Imperial PowerPlant provides a bridge to help supplement native forbs, grasses, acorns and legumes while providing a high-protein kick to reach the 16 to 18 percent protein needed for fawning and antler growth. Here's how I use PowerPlant and how it helps me in wildlife management.

## COVER

The white-tailed-deer is a creature of

safety and security. If you can create a safe area while maintaining cover, bedding areas and highly palatable forages, you've hit the jackpot. With PowerPlant, you can provide a highly nutritious forage while making deer feel safe and secure in an area. I love creating annual food plots in fall with standing PowerPlant. Further, you can almost design your bow shots if it works out. Also, I use lanes in PowerPlant fields to train dogs and hunt the plots for northern bobwhite quail. PowerPlant grows a tall, seed-producing crop that works great to hold game birds of all ages.

## NUTRITION

PowerPlant lets you plant a spring/summer plot that will provide nutrition for bucks growing new antlers and does that recently dropped fawns and are weaning them. It also provides the nutrient balance to help fawning does.

Let's dig into a bag of PowerPlant and look at the forages. It includes a true forage-type vining soybean that can tolerate heavy grazing better than agricultural soybeans. Also, it features climbing forage peas for increased variety and high protein tonnage, and a small amount of sunflowers to provide a climbing lattice for vining legumes.

Further, it has sunn hemp, a highly attractive forage that withstands heavy grazing and also provides additional structure for vining legumes to climb. Sunn hemp was a great choice to replace sorghum, as it changes several things about the blend. It's a great soil builder, adding organic matter and nitrogen to the soil. Soil nutrition plays a huge role in food plot success. It's also drought tolerant, and if you have issues with weeds, it can help suppress them.

Sunn hemp can grow to 6 feet high and offers up to 30 percent protein and



more foraging opportunities, as deer are attracted to its highly palatable leaves. It also produces nice cover and adds life to the blend, adding longevity to smaller fields. The hemp can keep producing even after deer start browsing it hard, and can tolerate the crown being removed.

Additionally, PowerPlant can be sprayed with Arrest Max, which lets deer managers treat grasses.

### DESIGN

Here's an advantage of PowerPlant that can't be discussed enough: It lets you create food plot designs and funnels. Many designs come to mind. One of my favorites is the hub-and-spoke, in which a fall planting such as Pure Attraction or No Plow can be planted in strips you have prepared to plant within PowerPlant. Sometimes, you can design patterns that might allow better shots.

You can also use PowerPlant to create funnels where deer can travel and feel safer than in the open. Anytime you can make a whitetail feel it has natural cover, the safer that deer feels. When the hemp and sunflower in PowerPlant grow to maturity, that should make bucks feel more secure feeding and visiting plots to check for does. Of course, that depends on the wind and your setup. With some foresight, you can create a great kill spot for bow season.

If you haven't tried PowerPlant, I recommend it. Its potential benefits are endless. For PowerPlant to work best, you must let the plants reach maturity. When they do, the forage beans and peas will keep producing. And again, folks who manage for turkeys and quail can also reap benefits from PowerPlant.

If you have questions about PowerPlant, call (205) 269-5228, or email [Jody@whitetailinstitute.com](mailto:Jody@whitetailinstitute.com).



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