UPGRADE YOUR FOOD PLOT WITH PREMIUM COATED SEEDS

f you're going to spend the money and time to plant a food plot, I strongly recommend that you plant a premium-quality coated seed. The benefits are undeniable.

The amount of inaccurate information about seed coating is maddening. I want to take a few minutes to explain the importance of seed coating — short and factual.

Seed coating is an innovative process that adheres materials onto the surface of seeds for the sole purpose of protecting seeds from biotic stress and greatly improving seedling survivability. Coating reduces the number of seeds per pound, but it ultimately ensures that more seeds germinate, grow and create a uniform stand. Simply, more plants survive. In the world of conventional agriculture, coated seed for small-seed forages is the standard.

What's in Whitetail Institute's seed coating: **RainBond:** This is a water absorbing material to ensure moisture next to the seedling roots, providing insurance if follow-up rain is scarce. This polymer holds 200 times its weight in water.

Concentrated biological rhizobium bacteria: Legumes need this rhizome to fix nitrogen from the air and flourish. Legume plants exist in a symbiotic relationship with soil bacteria. Rhizobacteria are naturally present in soil but often at insufficient quantities to maximize nitrogen fixation.

Fungicide, for crops such as alfalfa that require this additional protection.

Color coating to assist with visual monitoring of spread seed: There have been many university studies conducted on this topic. Below is one from University of Kentucky, showing a 42.95 percent increase in coated seedling emergence six weeks after planting and a 44.07 percent increase in plant survival after five to six months.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COATED V	ERSUS UNCO	ATED	
PRE-INOCULATED ALFALFA SEED SIX WEEKS AFTER SEEDING.			
	UNCOATED	COATED SEED	
NUMBER OF SEED PLANTED PER SQ. FT.	84.5	56.1	
NUMBER OF SEEDLINGS PER SQ. FT.	35.4	33.6	

14 locations in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee, 1993-2000. * Average seeding rate, uncoated 18.4 lb. /A, Rhizo-Kote XL 18.5 lb. /A. 200,000 seed per pound. ** 280 measurements per treatment. Burns, et al., 2002

PERCENT EMERGENCE OF SEED PLANTED

T A B L E 2 Establishment of coated versus uncoated Pre-inoculated alfalfa seed five to six Months after seeding.			
	UNCOATED	COATED SEED	
NUMBER OF SEED PLANTED PER SQ. FT.	84.5	56.1	
NUMBER OF SEEDLINGS PER SQ. FT.**	27.8	26.6	
PERCENT EMERGENCE OF SEED PLANTED	32.9	47.4	

— William

