

# Native Forb and Non-native Legume Interseeding

## Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)  
University Outreach and Extension – The School of Natural Resources

### INTERSEEDING NATIVE FORBS AND LEGUMES INTO EXISTING GRASSLANDS IMPROVES HABITAT FOR QUAIL

#### PURPOSE:

Native forb and non-native legume interseeding is used to increase plant diversity in wildlife friendly warm- and cool-season grass plantings or in old field habitats. Interseeding provides wildlife with a food source during the winter. It can also create excellent brood habitat for upland wildlife during the summer. This practice should be used after a disturbance such as prescribed burning, strip disking or herbicide strip spraying.



#### SPECIFICATIONS:

- ❑ Interseeding can be completed any time from December through April. Native forbs should be interseeded in December or January.
- ❑ Interseeding should be used in conjunction with a management practice that will setback grasses. Prescribed burning, strip disking or herbicide strip spraying are excellent choices.
- ❑ Late summer and early fall prescribed burns create ideal conditions for interseeding. For native warm season grass and non- native cool season grass burn in the fall 1-2 months before killing frost. For non-native cool season grass allow the grass to re-grow 2 weeks so that green leaf surface will be exposed to strip herbicide application.
- ❑ Seed may be broadcasted or drilled. If drilled use ¼ inch depth.
- ❑ Good non-native legumes to interseed include red clover, ladino clover, alfalfa and annual lespedeza.
- ❑ Do not interseed with seresia lespedeza, birds foot trefoil, crown vetch or sweet clover.
- ❑ Interseed native forbs at the rate of ¼ to 2 lbs/acre with a minimum of 5 species. Contact your NRCS or MDC wildlife biologists or foresters for a list of recommended native forbs.

#### MAINTENANCE:

- ❑ Use herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.
- ❑ Continue to disturb fields on a two or three year rotation by burning, disking or spraying herbicides. These practices will setback grasses and create bareground habitat. If possible, disturb no more than one-third of the field in a year.

#### PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Provide a natural cover and food source for quail and other wildlife.

Consult with NRCS or MDC wildlife biologists and private land conservationists, or University Extension for additional recommendations.

