

Plot Screen Planting Tips

- 1. Plot Screen is best planted in <u>late May to mid/late June</u> depending on your area. It is vulnerable to a killing frost so you want to be sure <u>not</u> to plant too early. Does best in full sun, but can handle some shade.
- 2. Plot Screen grows in most any soil given proper sunlight, nutrients, and moisture but it prefers a moist but well drained soil. Does not like wet heavy soils or areas that hold water after a heavy rain.
- 3. Before planting, condition the soil with a roto-tiller, plow, disc, or similar equipment to a depth of about 6".
- 4. As with any planting, weed control prior to planting is important and will reduce nutrient stealing weeds from competing with your plot. That being said, Plot Screen typically grows thick enough and tall enough to crowd out most weeds so if there was ever a situation where you can get by without spraying, this might be it.
- 5. Soil should be fertile with a pH of 5.5 to 7.5. If you are not sure of your soils fertility or pH, have your soil tested. Your local farm co-op or fertilizer dealer can usually help with this. Add lime as needed to improve your pH.
 - *A good fertilizer recommendation is 300-400 lbs/acre of 19-19-19. Like corn, Plot Screen loves nitrogen so any fertilizer you use should have a relatively high first number. Urea (46-0-0) can be added after about 1 month to really give it a boost.
- 6. Broadcast or drill at 15lbs/acre. <u>Do not over-seed</u>. Remember a screen 16' wide by ½ mile equals about an acre. Planting too thick will only result in stunted plants. A screen a <u>minimum</u> of 16' wide is recommended. Wider screens will hold up better to rough weather and can also provide bedding areas for deer.
- 7. Lightly drag the field to cover the seed approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
 - **Important** Use a cultipacker, roller, or even your ATV tires to pack the field to insure good seed/soil contact. Do not skip this critical step whenever planting a food plot.

Additional Information & Tips

- *Planting just before a reasonable chance of rain will always help you achieve the best germination.
- *Proper pH is important, but Plot Screen will tolerate acidic soils better than most blends.
- *Plot Screen can handle some extended dry periods once it gets growing, so be sure and fertilize when planting. You want to take full advantage of the Spring rains and get those roots established.
- *If you have sandy soil, Plot Screen is a great way to add organic material into your soil for the following growing season.
- *Plot Screen loves hot humid weather so July/August is when you will often see your fastest growth. If your plants are light green or yellow they are most likely lacking nitrogen (or too much moisture)