



Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever  
**Habitat Information Sheet #9**

## **Early Longtail Milo**

### **Signature Series Food Plot**



#### **General Description**

Short growing seasons are no longer a barrier to good food production for wildlife. Early Longtail Milo is a maturity grain sorghum that provides a heavy seed crop in as little as 85 days under normal growing conditions. Great to use in more northern latitudes or for those projects that were delayed by weather. The shorter stature provides great hunting habitat that affords maximum visibility of your bird dogs while working cover.

#### **Target Species / Wildlife Value**

This early maturing grain bearing sorghum is designed to provide excellent winter food and reliable cover for wildlife throughout the upper Midwest and Great Lakes. It can also be used at lower latitudes where weather has delayed a project or in western regions. Upland game will dine on its high yielding seeds and its short stature provides great hunting cover.

#### **Timeline**

Generally, conduct site prep in late-April to early-May. Typically plant early-May to late-June when soil temps reach 65°. Plant at least 85 days before the expected first hard freeze.

#### **Planting Rates**

A 25 lb bag plants 4-5 acres (drilled or planted) or 3 acres if broadcast.

#### **Contains**

Early maturing grain sorghum with a wide area of adaptation.

#### **Weed Management Options**

Pre-emergent (Concep-treated: s-metolachlor or s-metolachlor + atrazine). Post-emergent (2,4-D or quinclorac). Always follow label instructions.

#### **Similar PFQF Signature Series Blends**

This mix is specifically designed for shorter establishment. Other products that provide quick value to wildlife include our green browse selections of Clover Kandy; Bird, Buck and Brood Food; Big Buck Brassicas, Quail Quisine and Fall Deer mix. However these mixes do not focus on providing a winter food source for upland game, with the exception of Quail Quisine.

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## Early Longtail Signature Series Food Plot

### General Planting Instructions

#### **Site Preparation** (generally late-April through May)

Poor site preparation is the number one reason for project failures. Mow (or burn) your food plot 3 to 5 weeks before planting to remove residual plant material from previous year. Alternately, mow (or disk) the previous fall, followed by spring disking and/or a burn-down herbicide application when new weedy growth is visible.

Get a soil test! Soil tests can be done in the fall or early spring. Typically, you should schedule 3-4 weeks for results. This is the only true way to determine your fertilizer, nutrient, and pH adjustment (lime) needs. Soil pH for grain-based food plot crops should generally range from 5.8 to 7.0. Proper pH is critical in order for fertilizer to be effective.

Spray with a contact herbicide (glyphosate / RoundUp) ahead of planting once weeds green up, following label instructions. If field has little history of broadleaf or grass competition, a contact herbicide may not be needed. Heavily disk the field 10 days after spraying, and prior to planting (unless you plan to no-till).

#### **Weed Management** (generally May to mid-July)

Some weeds in a wildlife food plot can provide additional cover and food, but too many weeds will compete with your food plot reducing or even eliminating yields. Your site should be weed free at the time of planting (see site prep).

- DO NOT SPRAY WITH CONTACT HERBICIDE (glyphosate / Roundup) ONCE ESTABLISHED. If sprayed, it will die.
- Pre-Emergent – this mix is safened with CONCEP making chemical weed control simple.
  - Apply Dual (s-metolachlor or similar grass/broadleaf herbicide) as a pre-emergent (shallow preplant incorporated is best – incorporate into top 2 inches of soil within 2 weeks of planting). DO NOT apply if crop has emerged. Dual is primarily an annual grass herbicide with some control of small-seeded broadleaf weeds such as pigweeds / waterhemp. Always follow label instructions when applying herbicides to control weeds. Restricted use herbicides may only be applied with required permitting. If broadleaf weeds are a particular concern,
  - May consider Bicep Lite II Magnum (s-metolachlor + atrazine) and offers broader broadleaf control. Note atrazine has carryover concerns so only use if food plot will be sorghum or corn in following year. Consult a crop specialist for more herbicide suggestions.
- Post-Emergent
  - 2,4-D can be used to control some broadleaf weeds. Erratic on pigweed in dry conditions, poor control of kochia. Apply when crop is 5-12 inches high from soil to tip of whorl leaf. Marginal crop tolerance – best at the early stage.
  - Paramount (quinclorac) can be used for foxtail control. Some activity on annual broadleaf weeds such as kochia and lambsquarter. Apply from emergence to 12-inch sorghum. Avoid drift.

#### **Planting** (generally May to late-June)

Disk field before planting (unless no-tilling), incorporating fertilizer and nutrients (lime, etc.) per soil test results, or fertilize at planting. If not testing soil, 300 pounds of 19-19-19 per acre. To improve yield, consider broadcasting 80-100 pounds of actual nitrogen (175-220 #s of 46-0-0) per acre 6 to 8 weeks after planting. Soil temperature at planting should be 65 degrees or warmer (warmer than corn or soybeans). Soils should be well drained (not wet). Plant within 24 hours of fertilizing. Do NOT overplant!

- For no-till or conventional row planters or grain drills, plant with 15 to 30 inch spacings. Seed sorghum at 1 to 1.5 inch depth. Recommended seeding rates should be about 5 pounds per acre (4-5 acres per bag).
- If broadcasting, recommended seeding rates for sorghum 10-15 pounds per acre (2-3 acres per bag). Broadcast then incorporate into soil by dragging, cultipacking or lightly disking. Rolling seed bed after planting will increase germination.

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