

A Deer's Diet Along the Edge

Soft Mast:

- Blackberry
- Blueberry
- Elderberry
- Persimmon
- Plum
- Crabapple

Do Your Woods Look Like This?



Timber Management

- In hardwoods, aesthetics are nice, but mast and browse (aka food) is priority
- Retention Cut for Wildlife (or Thinning)
- Reduce canopy cover to ~30%
- Release favored crowns
- Stimulate understory
- Ask a professional



It's All About Managing Sunlight

Shade Intolerant

- species of trees and shrubs are those that require full sunlight to thrive. They are sometimes called pioneer species because they are the first to become established on large, open, disturbed sites. They include cedar, blackgum, dogwood, hazelnut, blackberry, cherry and redbud.

Shade Tolerant

- species of trees and shrubs are those that grow well with limited or very little sunlight, and may out compete pioneer species over time. They include beech and sugar maple.

Timber Stand Improvement Techniques

- Cut and Fell
- Girdle and Spray
- Hack and Squirt

Edge Feathering/Patch Clearcut



Plant Soft Mast



Results...



Wetlands/Waterholes



FOOD PLOTS



\$20

UT Extension
PB1769

A Guide to Successful
**Wildlife
Food Plots**
Blending Science with Common Sense



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INSTITUTE of AGRICULTURE

Think of Your Food Plots as a Checkerboard, Not a Monoculture



Food Plots

- Various forbs (broadleaf herbaceous plants) make up approximately 70 percent of a white-tailed deer's diet during the warm growing season.
- Legume-dominated, warm-season forage plots provide high levels of protein and total digestible nutrients – exactly what growing deer need during summer.

Food Habits

- All green stuff doesn't make good deer food. It's seasonal
- Stress Periods: Late Summer and Winter
- Focus on High Protein
- Annual vs Perennial Plots

Diversity of Plantings Throughout the Year Are Critical

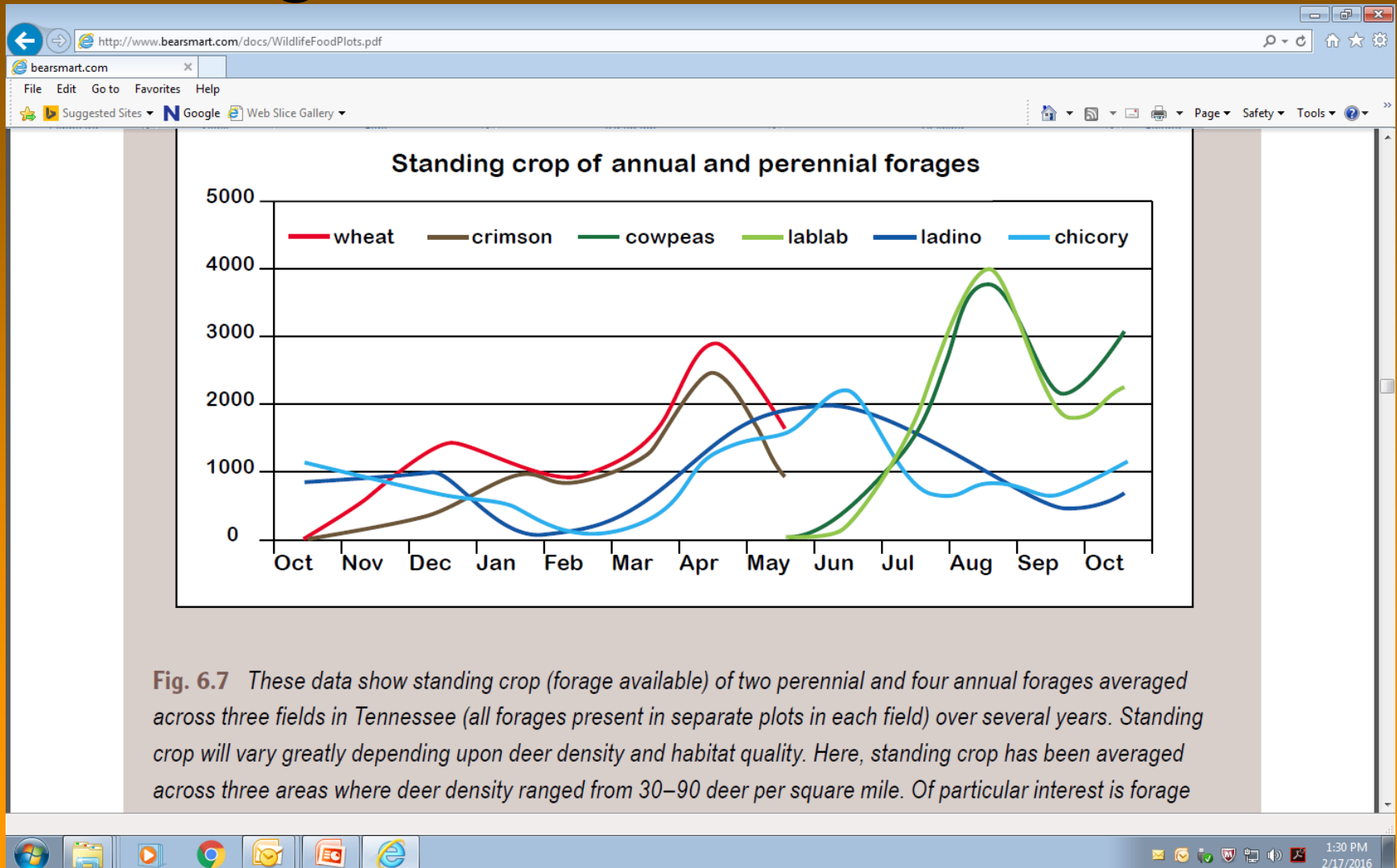


Fig. 6.7 These data show standing crop (forage available) of two perennial and four annual forages averaged across three fields in Tennessee (all forages present in separate plots in each field) over several years. Standing crop will vary greatly depending upon deer density and habitat quality. Here, standing crop has been averaged across three areas where deer density ranged from 30–90 deer per square mile. Of particular interest is forage

They Don't Like Everything

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <http://www.bearsmart.com/docs/WildlifeFoodPlots.pdf>. The page title is "White-tailed Deer". The main content is a table with the following data:

	Forage produced (pounds per acre – dry weight)	Percent eaten by deer
crimson clover	4050	97
oats	3676	92
triticale	4049	89
wheat	3952	85
orchardgrass	2212	2

The browser interface includes a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "Go to", "Favorites", and "Help". The taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 1:41 PM on 2/17/2016.

Alfalfa



SOY BEANS



Grain



Size Matters....Exclusion Fences



Nothing Magic to Food Plot Mixes

Experiment to see what works on Your Farm



Warm Season Annuals

- 40# Quail Haven soybeans
- 5# peredovik sunflowers
- 50# iron-clay cowpeas
- 10# lablab
- 5# peredovik sunflowers
- 60# iron-clay cowpeas
- 8# corn
- 15# American jointvetch (Aeschynomene)
- 5# alyceclover
- 20# buckwheat

Cool Season Perennials

- 5# alsike clover
 - 4# ladino white clover
 - 5# berseem clover
 - 40# oats or wheat
 - 10# alfalfa
 - 5# red clover
 - 3# chicory
 - 30# oats or wheat
-
- 4# ladino white clover
 - 5# red clover
 - 2# chicory
 - 1# dwarf essex rape
 - 40# oats or wheat

Cool Season Annuals

- 100# wheat or cereal rye
- 20# Austrian winter peas
- 2# dwarf essex rape (or other forage rape)
- 10# crimson clover
- 5# arrowleaf clover
- 20# Austrian winter peas
- 40# wheat or oats

The Key to Food Plots

ROTATION

ROTATION

ROTATION

1 YR OLD MILO FIELD



1 YR OLD CORN FIELD





WILDLIFE REGIONS & PRIVATE LANDS BIOLOGISTS

Green River Region

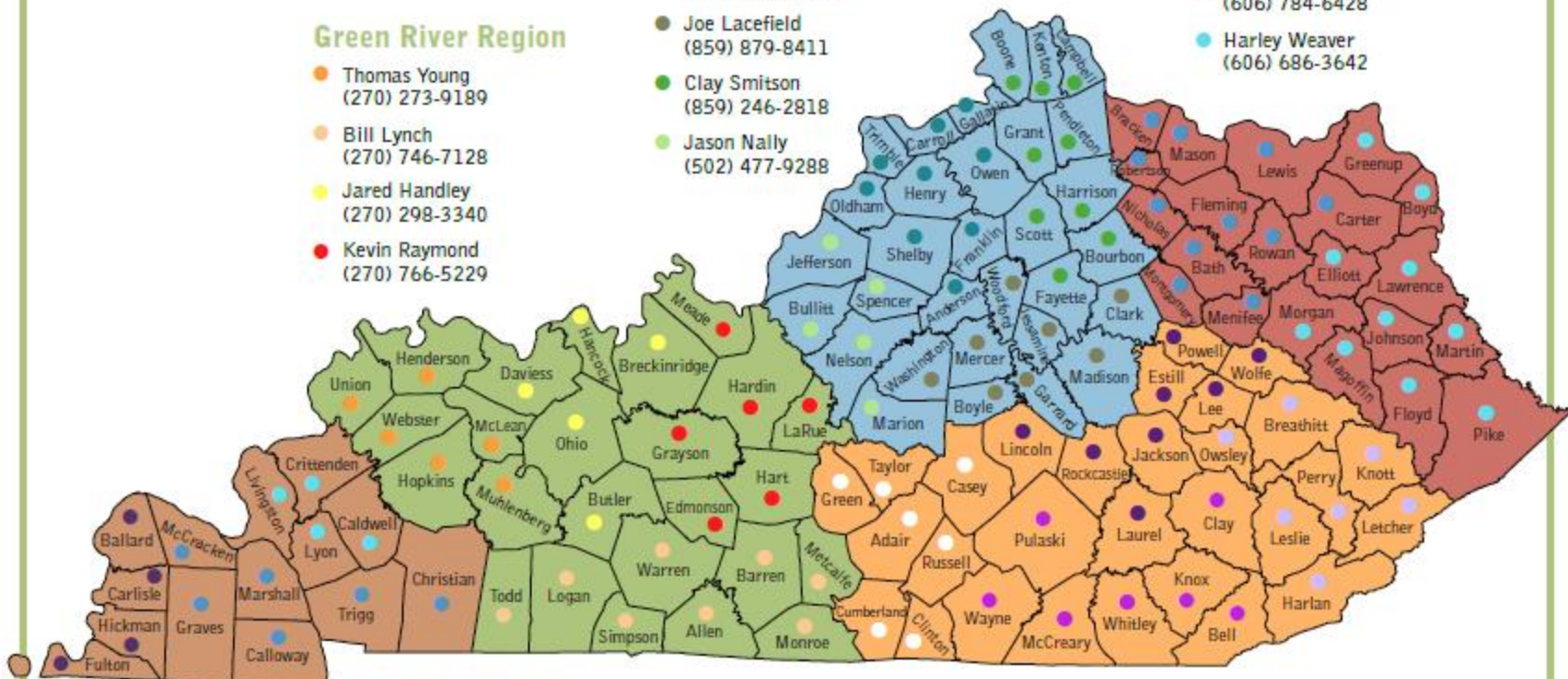
- Thomas Young (270) 273-9189
- Bill Lynch (270) 746-7128
- Jared Handley (270) 298-3340
- Kevin Raymond (270) 766-5229

Bluegrass Region

- Chris Grascch (1-800-858-1549)
- Joe Lacefield (859) 879-8411
- Clay Smitson (859) 246-2818
- Jason Nally (502) 477-9288

Northeast Region

- Wes Mattox (606) 784-6428
- Harley Weaver (606) 686-3642



Purchase Region

- Philip Sharp (270) 965-3921 ext. 110
- Kevin Tucker (270) 408-1244
- Wes McFaddin (270) 488-3254

Southeast Region

- Chris Mason (270) 465-2839
- J.J. Baker (606) 435-6229
- Matt Catron (606) 416-9550
- Merle Hacker (606) 878-9595