

# DEER AND HABITAT



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A diverse habitat is key to  
proper deer management

# Overview

- **Seasonal Requirements**
- **Grasslands**
- **Forestlands**
- **Wetlands/Waterholes**
- **Food Plots**



# What do DEER require

- They are Browsers
- Mixture of habitats
- Diversity

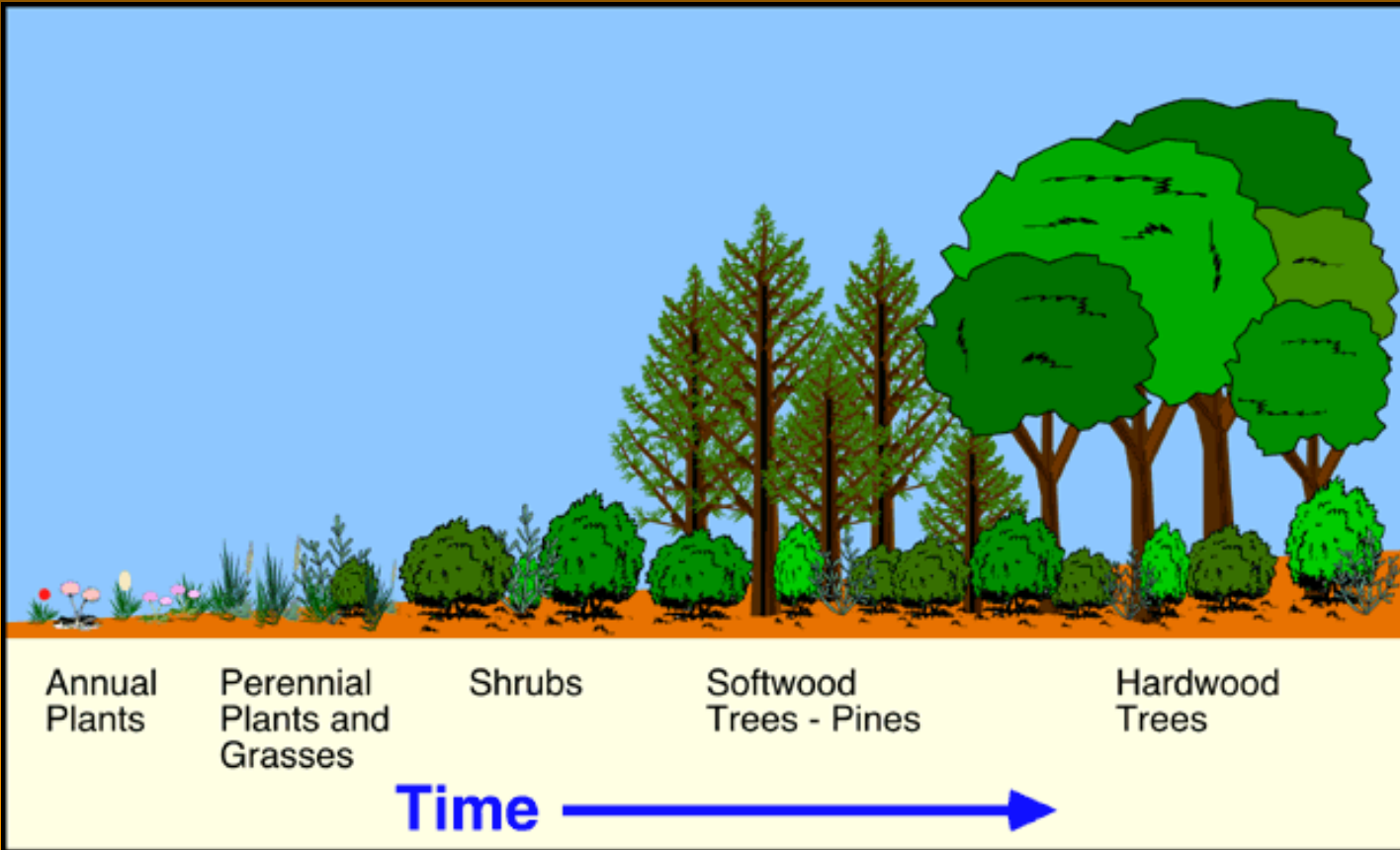


# Habitat Management

## The Basics

- Provide a diversity of stand types (species composition)
- Hardwood and Pine
- Open/Field
- Provide a diversity of age classes
- Smaller is generally better
- Habitats well interspersed (Connectivity)

# Plant Succession



# **WE ALL KNOW THIS IS BAD Habitat...**



# Fescue Conversion Is Critical





# Grasslands Are Great But.....



**FOOD????**

# FOOD AND COVER

## You Need Both!



# WEED OR FOOD ?



# Forbs – Backbone of Nutrition

- Too many to list
- Ragweed
- Native legumes
- Pokeweed
- Prickly Lettuce

# Forb Diversity



# Whatever You Do, Don't Manage Like This...



# Recreational Mowing



**NOT THE BEST MANAGEMENT**

# Prescribed Fire!





# Burning for Wildlife

Why do we need prescribed fire in wildlife management?

- Set back plant succession
- Manage plant communities
- Improve browse quality/quantity
- Insect abundance, foraging efficiency
- Increase habitat diversity
- Reduce fuel loads
- Improve regeneration
- Cost effective

# Seasonality of Burning



# Strip Disking!



# THE EDGE EFFECT



# Don't Underestimate the Importance of SOFT MAST

