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Wildlife Plot Planting Instructions for Sugarbeets:

1. Planting: optimum soil temps of 55° F to 70° F.

2. For weed control, Roundup® (Glyphosate is the generic form) may be applied prior to tilling or just prior to planting.

3. Condition the soil with a disc, chisel plow or similar equipment to prepare a good seed bed.

4. Drag the seedbed with a drag or chain link fence to further prep the soil.

5. For starter fertilizer use 50 to 100 pounds (per acre rate) of 16-16-16 or 13-13-13 fertilizer. This provides additional nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium to the soil for healthier plants. If you are not sure of your soils fertility, have your soil tested. Your local farm co-op or fertilizer dealer can usually help with this.

Region	Plant Dates	Forage Season
Northern U.S. & Canada	April 1 - June 1	Summer & Fall
Central U.S.	April 1 - June 1	Summer
	Aug 15 - Sept. 15	Fall
	Sept. 1 - Oct. 1	Winter/Spring
Southern U.S.	Feb. 15 - April 15	Spring/Summer
	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15	Winter/Spring

6. Broadcast 10-15 lbs or drill 5-10 lbs sugarbeet seed per acre. If broadcasting, lightly incorporate seed into the soil with a drag or light cultivator. This rate can be reduced proportionately if blended with alfalfa, clover or other seed.

7. Simply set the broadcaster to 2 on most spreaders or about ¼ inch (better to have setting set smaller and overlap than to run out of seed).

8. Drag the seedbed and cover the seed with ½ - 1½ inch of top soil. If you have access to a roller or culti-packer, this works well to firm the seedbed and promote good seed-to-soil contact.

9. Wait for rain or irrigate with about one inch of water. Sugarbeets require 12 to 18 inches of moisture during a 5 month growing season.

10. Wait about two weeks after emergence and thin the beets with a row crop cultivator or disc set at a pretty straight angle. About this same time, apply about another 20 to 30 lbs. per acre of actual nitrogen (e.g., 44-65 lbs of 46-0-0).

11. If moisture is adequate, you can apply 2 more 50 lbs/acre (e.g., 100 to 110 lbs of 46-0-0) applications of actual nitrogen at about 6 to 8 week intervals. Basically, the more nitrogen available without burning the beets, the greater the foliage protein value will be, and the more the roots will grow.

12. Sugarbeets take from 4 days up to 3 weeks to germinate and emerge, depending on conditions. The first stage of beet growth is the canopy or tops. This will be the main growth phase for 4-5 weeks. Then the root growth will become the primary growth phase and that will continue for the next 4-6 months until they reach maturity. Temperatures at freezing (32° F) or below may cause beet loss.