TerraRack Property Plan

Food Plot Intelligence for Whitetail Habitat

Property Overview

Name: Manito Property

Location: Mason County, IL

Total Plot Acres: 1.5

Primary Objective: Grow Bigger Bucks

Recommended Crop: Clover (Perennial Base)

Seasonal Role: Year-Round Base

Risk Level: Low

Property Strategy

This property is best suited for a perennial clover system, given sandy soil conditions, high browsing pressure, and limited equipment access (ATV-only).

Rather than relying on annual crops that may struggle under pressure, clover provides a resilient, repeatable system that delivers consistent nutrition and improves soil over time.

Management Focus

• Establish and maintain a durable perennial forage base

• Withstand browsing pressure with consistent regrowth

• Improve soil quality and long-term productivity

Plot Recommendation

Recommended Crop: Clover (Perennial Base)

Secondary Option: Cereal Grains

Establishment Risk

Low Establishment Risk (15-20%)

Risk Drivers

• High browsing pressure

• Sandy soil conditions

• Limited equipment access

Estimated Investment

Cost Range Per Acre: $120 – $250

Time to Impact: 60 – 90 days

Why This Recommendation Works

Clover performs exceptionally well in smaller interior plots where browse pressure is high and equipment access is limited. Its ability to regenerate after grazing makes it far more reliable than annual crops in this environment.

On sandy soils, clover also helps build organic matter and improve long-term soil structure, making this a compounding system rather than a one-season solution.

What To Do Next

Execution Plan

Primary Planting Window (Optimal Timing)

April 18 – May 2

• Establish new clover stand

• Align with spring moisture and soil temperature conditions

Condition Check:

Proceed when soil moisture is adequate and temperatures are consistently warming. Avoid planting into dry or cold soil conditions.

Plan B (If Missed)

May 5 – May 25

• Plant clover with increased attention to moisture conditions

• Consider adding a nurse crop (light cereal grain mix) for early protection

Note:

Later planting increases risk slightly but remains viable with proper timing and moisture.

Execution Checklist

Pre-Plant

• Conduct soil test (if not already completed)

• Apply lime if pH is below recommended range

• Kill existing vegetation (spray or light till)

Planting

• Plant clover at proper rate and shallow depth

• Ensure good seed-to-soil contact (pack or roll if possible)

• Apply appropriate fertilizer (0-20-20 if needed based on soil test)

Post-Plant Monitoring

• Monitor emergence 2–3 weeks after planting

• Watch for grass competition and weed pressure

• Re-spray or mow as needed

Clover Maintenance (Critical for Success)

• Mow when clover reaches 8–10 inches

• Cut back to 4–5 inches

• Do NOT allow clover to go to seed

• Repeat mowing as needed to control weeds and stimulate regrowth

Seasonal Enhancement (Optional)

August 5 – August 15

• Broadcast cereal grains into existing clover

• Benefits:

- Increased fall attraction
- Extended food availability into late season
- Minimal disturbance to established plot

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Long-Term Opportunity

• Maintain clover as a multi-year base system

• Improve soil structure and fertility over time

• Rotate or layer in cereal grains seasonally for diversity

This approach builds a low-risk, highly reliable system that improves each season rather than resetting every year.

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Food Plot Intelligence for Better Deer Habitat

*TerraRack provides informational habitat planning guidance only. Results depend on weather, soil conditions, wildlife pressure, and implementation practices.