

Normal Agricultural Practices in Florida for Dove Hunting¹

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Introduction

This publication is intended to define what are considered normal agricultural practices in the state of Florida for hunters to reference for dove field management, dove hunting, and baiting of dove fields. The document outlines what are considered normal agricultural practices as they pertain to fields in which doves will be hunted in the state of Florida.

Officially recommended planting methods are based on published data from UF/IFAS and UF/IFAS Extension state specialists and agricultural agent recommendations. While weather, soil moisture, temperature, and individual production practices may lead to variations outside these official recommendations, they are not recognized as normal agricultural practices by UF/IFAS Extension; thus, they are not recognized as normal agricultural practices for migratory game bird hunting. Seeds, salts, grains, or other feeds placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered not during the course of normal agricultural practices are considered bait. A baited area will remain baited for ten days following the complete removal of all such seed, salt, grain, or other feed. The planting method, rates, and dates, among other details, must follow the steps and practices outlined in the glossary of terms.

Glossary of Terms

- **Seeding rate:** The amount of seeds, in pounds or seeds planted per acre, varies by species and planting method. Recommended seeding rates are based on pure live seeds, and should be corrected based on germination and coating (if present) described in the seed label.
- **Coated seeds:** Refer to seeds that have been coated with an inert material, which may include nutrients, rhizobia inoculant, and other additives. When using coated seeds, correct the seeding rate based on the percentage of coated material as total weight. Actual seeding rate = Desired seeding rate / [1 - (% Coating / 100)].
- **Pure live seeds:** Refer to the proportion of a seed lot that is both physically pure and viable, calculated as a product of the purity and germination.
- **Germination rate:** Germination is the percentage of the crop seeds in a lot that have the potential for germination. The germination rate is the percentage of seeds that successfully sprouted during laboratory analysis, which can be found on the tag of the seed purchased, along with information on purity, dormancy, weed contamination, and other parameters. Commercial seeds normally have at least 80% germination, but limits are dependent on species. *Calculation:* Number of seeds germinated per ft² based on the number of seeds planted per ft².
- **Seed not germinated per square foot (ft²):** Estimated number of seeds not germinated in each square foot area. *Calculation:* (20% x seeds/ft²). If the seed germination rate on the seed tag from the seed bag is available and states a different germination rate, use the indicated germination rate in the calculation to determine the seed per ft². *Calculation:* (1 - Germination rate %) x (seeds/ft²).
- **Seeding per square foot:** The estimated number of seeds that would be found in a given square foot area. *Calculation:* (Number of seeds per lb x lb of seed per acre) / 43560 ft².
- **No-till drill planting:** Seeds are mechanically planted in the ground with a no-till drill with no need for prior tillage, such as plowing or disking.
- **Recommendations for zone:** Edaphoclimatic regions (i.e., based on soil and climate) that dictate crop adaptation and production window. Some cool-season forages are not as suitable in south Florida compared to central or Panhandle areas of the state due to climatic conditions, such as varying temperatures, amounts of rainfall, etc.
- **Broadcast planting/seeding:** A method of sowing seeds by scattering them evenly over an area, on top of the soil or sod; can be done into a prepared seedbed or onto sod directly for small-seeded species such as ryegrass, clovers, crabgrass, and millet. This can be done with a tractor- or vehicle-mounted, ground-driven, or hand-cranked broadcast spreader, flown on, or by hand. When broadcasting into a prepared seedbed, it is recommended to drag or lightly disk and roll with a roller or cultipacker to achieve proper planting depth and seed-to-soil contact. Rolling before

planting can firm the seedbed and improve seed positioning (i.e., proper depth). In some instances, the use of livestock to trample in broadcast seed would be considered a permissible seeding practice.

- **Land preparation methods:** Refer to strategies to prepare the land before planting, including mowing, burning, herbicide application, and tillage practices.
- **Prepared seedbed:** Refers to soil that has been tilled before planting to reduce vegetation competition and create a fine, firm, and uniform surface for planting.

Normal Agriculture Practices in Florida

The Dove Field Planting log below can be used by hunters to track information related to the fields in which doves will be hunted. This is a log of information associated with normal agricultural practices.

UF/IFAS Extension Dove Field Planting Log for Agriculture Practices

Field Owner/Manager: _____

Phone Number: _____

Field Location: _____

Crop Planted: _____

Purpose of Planting: _____

Date of Planting: _____

Seed Tag Information (Coating, etc.): _____

Seeding Rate (lbs/acre): _____

Land Preparation Methods: _____

Planting Method (no-till, broadcast, etc.): _____

Harvest Date (if applicable): _____

Harvest Method: _____

Notes: _____

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Table 1 provides information for common crops in the state of Florida. Planting dates are listed by [the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's defined hunting zones](#). These dates were adjusted to reflect environmental differences, by zone, that impact planting dates. The seeding rates, germination, and planting practices are the same, regardless of hunting zone.

References

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Table 1. Information for common crops in the state of Florida. Planting dates are listed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's defined hunting zones.

Crop	Recommended Planting Dates by FWC Zone*				Seeding Rates		Germination at 80% Rate			Planting Practices		
	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Broadcast (lbs./acre)	Drill (lbs./acre)	Days to Germination	Seed/ft ²	Seed Not Germinated /ft ²	Planting Depths	Planting Method**	Days to Maturity
Browntop Millet	Feb. 1–July 15	Feb. 1–Aug. 1	Feb. 15–Aug. 15	Feb. 15–Aug. 15	25–30	15–20	5 d	50–100	10–20	0.5–1"	Broadcast, drill	60–70
Buckwheat	Apr. 1–Aug. 1	Mar. 15–Aug. 1	Mar. 15–Aug. 1	Mar. 15–Aug. 1	70–80	50–60	3–5 d	17–28	3–6	0.5–1"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	70–90
Corn	Feb. 1–June 30	Feb. 1–July 30	Feb. 1–July 30	Feb. 15–Aug. 1	0.3–0.5	8–15	5–10 d	0.3–0.5	0.1–0.1	1.5–2.5"	Drill	80–150
Grain Sorghum	Mar. 15–May 30	Apr. 15–June 30	Apr. 15–June 30	Apr. 15–June 30	10–15	6–8	5–10 d	2–6	0.4–1	1.0–1.5"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	75–150
Japanese Millet	Feb. 1–Aug. 1	Feb. 1–Aug. 1	Feb. 15–Aug. 15	Feb. 15–Aug. 15	25–30	15–20	3–10 d	49–98	10–20	0.25–0.5"	Broadcast, drill	80–100
Oats	Nov. 1–Dec. 1	Oct. 15–Nov. 15	Oct. 15–Nov. 15	Oct. 1–Nov. 15	96–128	90–120	7–10 d	29–41	6–8	0.75–1.5"	Best to drill, can broadcast over prepared seedbed	120–150
Pearl Millet	Mar. 1–June 15	Mar. 1–June 15	Mar. 15–June 30	Mar. 15–June 30	30–40	12–15	3–10 d	17–55	3–11	0.25–0.5"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	60–90
Proso Millet	May 1–Aug. 1	May 1–Aug. 1	May 15–Aug. 15	May 15–Aug. 15	25–30	15–20	5–10 d	28–55	6–11	0.5–1"	Broadcast, drill	75–90
Rye	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	90–120	90–100	7–10 d	37–50	7–10	0.75–1.5"	Best to drill, can broadcast over prepared seedbed	120–150

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Ryegrass	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	20–30	20	5–10 d	0–162	0–32	0–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	60–75
Sesame	Apr. 15–June 15	Apr. 15–June 15	Apr. 15–June 15	Apr. 15–June 15	10–12	8–10	5–14 d	38–57	8–11	0.5–1"	Broadcast, drill, or hand sow	80–100
Sorghum x Sudan	Mar. 15–June 15	Apr. 1–June 30	Apr. 1–June 30	Apr. 1–June 30	25–30	8–20	3–14 d	3–12	1–2	1.0"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	75–150
Soybean	Mar. 1–June 15	Mar. 15–July 1	Mar. 15–July 1	Mar. 15–July 1	30–100	60	7–14 d	2–7	0.4–1	0.5–1"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	60–70
Sunflowers	Apr. 15–July 15	May 1–July 30	May 1–July 30	May 1–July 30	35–40	15–20	7–10 d	2–6	0.4–1	1.0"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	90–120
Wheat	Nov. 15–Dec. 15	Oct. 30–Dec. 1	Oct. 30–Dec. 1	Oct. 15–Nov. 15	90–120	90–100	4–6 d	31–41	6–8	0.75–1.5"	Best to drill, can broadcast over prepared seedbed	180–240
Triticale	Nov. 1–Dec. 15	Oct. 15–Dec. 1	Oct. 15–Dec. 1	Oct. 1–Nov. 15	90–120	90–100	7–10 d	27–36	5–7	0.75–1.5"	Best to drill, can broadcast over prepared seedbed	120–150
Arrowleaf Clover	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	8–10	5–10	7–14 d	46–92	9–18	0–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	75–130

Crop	Recommended Planting Dates by FWC Zone*				Seeding Rates		Germination at 80% Rate			Planting Practices		
	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Broadcast (lbs./acre)	Drill (lbs./acre)	Days to Germination	Seed/ft ²	Seed Not Germinated /ft ²	Planting Depths	Planting Method**	Days to Maturity
Alyce clover	Apr. 1–July 1	Apr. 1–July 1	Apr. 15–July 1	Apr. 15–July 1	15–20	10–15	7–14 d	66–131	13–26	0.25–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	45–60
Berseem Clover	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	15–20	10–15	7–10 d	46–92	9–18	0–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	60–90
Crimson Clover	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	20–25	15–20	7–14 d	52–86	10–17	0–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	70–90
Red Clover	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	12–15	8–10	7–10 d	50–94	10–19	0–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	60–90
Subterranean Clover	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	12–22	10–15	5–7 d	13–28	3–6	0–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	90–150
Sweetclover	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	12–15	8–12	7–10 d	48–89	10–18	0–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	60–120
White Clover	Nov. 1–Jan. 15	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 15–Jan. 1	Oct. 1–Dec. 15	3–4	2–3	3–10 d	35–71	7–14	0–0.5"	Broadcast over prepared seedbed or sod, drill	25–50

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Kale	Oct. 1–Jan. 1	Sep. 1–Feb. 1	Sep. 1–Feb. 1	Aug. 1–Feb. 1	2–5	2–4	5–12 d	5–13	1–3	0.25–0.50"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	50–70
Mustard	Oct. 1–Jan. 1	Sep. 1–Feb. 1	Sep. 1–Feb. 1	Aug. 1–Feb. 1	3–6	3–5	7–10 d	15–31	3–6	0.25–0.50"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	40–50
Turnips	Oct. 1–Jan. 1	Sep. 1–Feb. 1	Sep. 1–Feb. 1	Aug. 1–Feb. 1	5–6	2–3	5–10 d	8–24	2–5	0.25–0.50"	Drill, broadcast over prepared seedbed	40–60

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