Start with good pH.

Testing for pH is usually free with your county extension service and is a great way to protect your time and investment. Most soils have lower than ideal pH and need lime; follow liming recommendations from your soil test. Your soil test will also provide exact fertilizer requirements.

Prepare your seed bed.

You want firm, but not packed, soil. Prepare your soil well by diskng or breaking the ground so that there are no living weeds. Your goal in soil preparation is to provide good seed-to-soil contact. Smooth your seed bed by using a roller or drag. Try not to compact the soil by working it when it is too wet, or working it so much that it dries out. Seeds will need moisture to sprout and grow.

If you don’t have a soil test, your plants will need a minimum of 125 lbs of 13-13-13 fertilizer per ¼ acre plot. Apply the fertilizer prior to planting on well prepared soil. Work it in or make sure rain activates the fertilizer.

Follow these planting dates/methods.

BROADSIDE should be planted 45-60 days before the first fall frost. Broadcast 25 lbs of BROADSIDE Fall Food Plot Blend (1 bag) per ¼ acre into moist, well-prepared soil and lightly drag the seed in to a ¼ inch depth. A quarter acre is 104 feet by 104 feet. Use more seed if your seedbed is rough as you may not have good seed-to-soil contact. Seed may also be drilled to ¼ inch depth in moist soil.