

ESTABLISHING NESTING HABITAT STAGE "Four"

Providing high-quality nesting cover begins with careful planning. Pheasants are generally attracted to larger undisturbed, blocky type fields. Managing for pheasants, as a species specific goal requires a multi-faceted approach. Windbreaks, dense cattail marshes and winter food sources are very important components to the revitalization of Pheasants in Michigan . The bigger the parcel of land the bigger the impact will be.

Warm-season grasses are attractive to wildlife because they will stand-up against wind and heavy snow. Mixes that include forbs or wild flowers are best. Big bluestem, little bluestem, Canada wild-rye, Indian grass are contained in a mix that has been carefully designed by our own Habitat Chairman, Dr. Paul Morrow. This blend has been matched to the soils and growing season for our area in Southern Michigan . Careful ground preparation is vital. Soil testing is your first step. The soil PH needs to be amended to have a successful planting. Weed control also is paramount to establish warm-season grasses. Specialized equipment in the form of a no-till native grass drill is vital. You may contact Dr. Morrow for contacts that offer this service.

Native warm-season grasses will take at least 2-3 years to establish. The grasses will grow down first, so the first year you will likely not see the typical tall grasses. Be patient, establishing quality habitat takes time. Establishing quality habitat takes time.