

## ALFA-RACK PLUS INSTRUCTIONS

### Seedbed Preparation

1. Select a site with medium to moderately drained soil. Stay off wet mucky soil.
2. For optimum results perform a laboratory soil test in advance of planting to determine lime and fertilizer requirements. If using Whitetail Institute's laboratory, check the Alfa-Rack Plus box on submittal form. If using another lab, test for giant white clover, alfalfa, chicory mix. Whitetail Institute's soil test submittal forms can be purchased and downloaded at: <https://whitetailinstitute.com/soil-test-kit-download-version/>
3. Add the amount of lime recommended in your soil-test report. If no soil test is available, then add a minimum of 1000 lbs. of lime per ¼ acre. For best results, disk or till the lime thoroughly into the top few inches of the seedbed. If possible, lime should be added several months in advance of planting.  
**DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP! MAKING SURE SOIL pH IS OPTIMUM (6.5-7.0) IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN CONTROL TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL PLANTING!**
4. Disk or till to prepare a good seedbed. If possible, perform this step two weeks before planting to help reduce the amount of weed seed that might germinate.
5. Add the fertilizer recommended in your soil-test report to the seedbed. If no soil test is available, then add 100 lbs. of 6-24-24, or equivalent, fertilizer per ¼ acre.
6. Lightly disk or till the fertilizer into the top few inches of the seedbed.
7. Smooth and firm the seedbed with a drag or cultipacker. For the best results, complete all steps in the order shown. Stay within the planting dates for your area as shown on the map. Cutting corners can negatively affect your results!

### Planting

1. Broadcast the seed at a rate of about 3.75 pounds per ¼ acre.  
**Tip:** For Using Shoulder-type Seeders: Set the gap in the seeder so it looks like some seed will come out, but not enough. Put one half of the seed required for the plot into the spreader and try to cover the entire seedbed with it. Leave about 12 feet between each pass. Then, repeat the process with the other half of the seed, but this time putting the seed out from a different direction by walking across your first path.
2. **DO NOT COVER THE SEED!** If you used a drag to smooth the seedbed before seeding: Do nothing further after you put the seed out. The seed will naturally fall into good contact with the soil. If you used a cultipacker to smooth the seedbed before seeding: Cultipack the seedbed again one time after putting the seed out to help press the seed into good contact with the soil.

**Optional Tip For Monitoring Browsing Pressure:** After planting, place a small wire basket over a portion of your planting so that wildlife cannot browse inside it. Watch the difference inside and outside the basket to gauge browsing pressure.

## Forage Maintenance

All perennial forages require a little maintenance each spring and summer to stay lush and attractive, and last as long as they should. Making sure soil pH and nutrient levels remain optimum with lime and fertilizer is important for making sure the forage stand stays as lush and thick as possible so that it's harder for weeds to get a foothold. Grass and weeds that do appear should be controlled in a timely manner.

**1.** The most important perennial-forage maintenance priority is grass control. If grass appears in your plot, spray Arrest MAX in early spring. Wait to spray Arrest MAX until you see that the grasses are actively growing. Whitetail Institute's SureFire Crop Oil is also highly recommended for use with Arrest MAX.

**2.** Maintaining proper soil pH and fertility is critical for forage health, performance, and longevity. Perform a laboratory soil test each year. Only a laboratory soil test can tell you exactly what lime and or fertilizer you need so that your planting can flourish and can save you money by eliminating wasted lime and fertilizer expenses. If no soil test is available, top dress the plot each spring with 125 lbs. of pellet lime or ag lime, and 100 lbs. of 0-20-20 fertilizer, or equivalent, per ¼ acre. (Tip: Maintenance fertilizer is best if applied in two applications, ½ the recommended fertilizer in the spring and the second half in the fall.)

**3.** Mow the plot once or twice in the spring as soon as you see the forage plants, or any grasses or other weeds starting to flower. This can help keep weeds from producing seed, and it also helps keep Alfa-Rack Plus lush and attractive so that it's harder for weeds to establish. Do not mow the forage plants below 6 inches, and do not take more than a few inches off the top of the forage plants when you mow. Do not mow when the forage plants are stressed from excessive heat or drought conditions.