

RIM Wildlife Food Plot (RR-FP) Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the RR-FP practice is to create and maintain food plots for wildlife.

Food plots that were approved by BWSR before October 2025 are not subject to this guidance. Any requests for new food plots or changes to previously approved food plots must follow this guidance.

Policies and Practices

1. No cost-sharing is authorized for this practice.
2. Food plots must be maintained annually. If a food plot is discontinued, it must be immediately replanted to appropriate high-quality, permanent native vegetative cover and the associated establishment costs are the responsibility of the landowner(s).
3. Food plot size and the number of food plots allowed will be based on the size of the easement.
4. Food plot crops must be left over winter for wildlife. No fall harvest or tillage is allowed. Grazing of food plots is only allowed in the spring as a part of an approved Grazing Agreement.
5. Food plots are not allowed on MN CREP Cropland acres with active CRP contracts. See [MN CREP General Program Guidance](#) for additional information. Food plot requests on RIM easements with active CRP or WRP contracts must seek approval from FSA, NRCS, and BWSR.
6. The use of insecticides on food plots is prohibited. Confirmation of insecticide-free seed should be provided to the SWCD annually. Landowners should be aware that BWSR may request seed tags. Easement Program Coordinators can provide resources on sourcing insecticide-free seed, if needed.

Technical Requirements

The following requirements must be followed when planning food plot locations. Some sites may not support food plots for unique reasons outside of the below requirements, and BWSR may deny those requests.

Food plots must be located:	Within an upland area.
	Within ¼ mile of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contiguous wetland of at least 10 acres OR, - At least 3 acres of existing contiguous woody cover, regardless of type or age.
Food plots must not be located:	Within a wetland area or on hydric soils.
	Within National Wetland Inventory (NWI) classified wetlands.
	Typically, not within the 100-year floodplain zone.
	On remnant prairie.
	On slopes in excess of 6%.
	Within narrow riparian corridors.

If no alternative locations are available and a desired food plot must be within a prohibited location, SWCD staff must provide valid reasoning why the food plot cannot be placed elsewhere. Perennial food plots may be an acceptable alternative proposal. BWSR reserves the right to deny these requests.

A temporary cover must be established on the practice area if weed and/or erosion control is necessary, or the food plot cannot be immediately planted.

Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) [Upland Wildlife Habitat Management \(645\) Conservation Practice Standard and Implementation Requirements](#) can be utilized for additional guidance.

Food Plot Size

The minimum food plot size is 0.5 acres. The minimum food plot width is 33 feet.

Easement size	Maximum total food plot acres	Total number of plots allowed
0-100 acres	10% of total easement area, not to exceed 5 acres	3
100-200 acres	10% of total easement area, not to exceed 10 acres	4
200+ acres	10% of total easement area, not to exceed 20 acres	5

If more than one food plot is requested, food plots should be separated by a sufficient distance to maximize wildlife benefits and accessibility. Additional acreage allowances can be made for perennial food plots, based on the requestor's proposal. If desired food plot acreage or number of plots allowed exceeds these amounts, the Easement Section Manager will need to consider its approval.

Minerals/Nutrients

Food plot crop rotations should be encouraged to maintain healthy soils and reduce the risk of depleting nutrients in the soil.

Minerals and/or nutrients may be necessary to ensure a successful food plot establishment. Nitrogen application is not allowed on food plots in Drinking Water Supply Management Areas, or other areas with sensitive groundwater.

Requesting a New Food Plot or Changing an Existing Food Plot

To request a new Food Plot or change an existing Food Plot, a Conservation Plan Amendment is needed. To initiate a Conservation Plan Amendment request, the SWCD must complete the following forms and submit to the RIM Inbox (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us).

1. Amended [Conservation Plan Workbook](#)
 - a. Check "Yes" in the *Conservation Plan Amendment* section at the top of the signature page and include a summary of the requested changes in the text box provided.
 - b. Update the Conservation Plan Worksheet of the Workbook, adding/modifying the RR-FP Practice and adjusting Practice Area Size(s) as needed. The Total Maximum Practice Funds Available should be adjusted to show \$0.
 - c. Review the *Wildlife Food Source Plantings* section of the Operation and Maintenance Plan with the landowner.
 - d. The Conservation Plan Workbook must be signed by the landowner and the SWCD. BWSR will review and if approved, will sign and provide the approved Workbook to the SWCD.
2. Amended Conservation Plan Map
3. A map detailing the location of proposed food plots meets the Technical Requirements listed above.

If the Conservation Plan Amendment is denied, an explanation will be provided with recommendations for revisions, if applicable.

Contact BWSR Easement Programs staff (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us) for additional information.