

## APPENDIX F:

### ***How to Plant and Manage Forage Sorghum Wildlife Plantings***

#### **Site**

Forage sorghum (sorghum-sudan varieties) does best on dry upland sites. If possible, locate the plantings south and east of existing cover such as trees or a marsh to keep blowing snow out of the plot (Fig. F2). If such cover does not exist, a 10+ acre planting with a corn snow-catch can stand on its own (Fig. F1). Such large plantings may also be useful in protecting high quality, existing cover of inadequate size (e.g., small conifer planting or wetland) (Fig. F3).

#### **Size**

A typical planting is ten acres. The forage sorghum is planted to provide eight acres of cover similar to a cattail marsh. The two acres of corn or grain sorghum provide the primary food sources as well as cover.

#### **Planting Time**

One of the most important requirements for a successful planting is a soil temperature of 65°F or more at planting time. In Minnesota, this is usually about May 20 to June 10. If planted too early, weeds and grasses will dominate the planting before the sorghum germinates. If planted too late, the sorghums/corn will not mature. It is usually best to plant the forage sorghum (cover portion) and the corn or grain sorghum (food portion) in separate plots.

#### **Planting Rates**

The forage sorghum is planted at a rate of 8-9 pounds of viable seed per acre. The corn is seeded at normal recommended rates and the grain sorghum is planted at 6-7 pounds of viable seed per acre. Sorghum and corn seed come in 50 pound sacks.

#### **Plot Cleanup**

Disk the plot very lightly or use a stalk chopper just enough to knock the stalks down. Then burn it. It will burn and clean up nicely if it has been knocked down first.

#### **Recommended Varieties for Minnesota**

Pioneer #931 and #988 will work well for the forage sorghum portion of the plot and Pioneer #894 for the grain sorghum. Any 80 to 100-day corn variety that has good standability will work well.