

Salt, Minerals, Natives

Native Species - Lime and fertilize certain native species on your hunting tract. White oaks are a favorite of whitetail and mule deer. If you use dolomite limestone under a large white oak in the spring the deer will flock to this oak in the fall during acorn drop. Use 200 lbs of dolomite per white oak tree spread under the canopy region then fertilize with 100 lbs. of 16-4-8. Clumps of briars can be bush hogged off during early spring and dolomite 25 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. of area followed with 10 lbs. per 1000 square feet with 16-4-8. Your deer will locate this briar patch and browse it though out the summer into the fall. Wild persimmons respond to dolomite and fertilizer. Other natives are crap apples, honey suckle, blackberries, blueberries, tea weed, wild roses, and huckleberry. All these benefit from dolomite and fertilizer. However, you should be selective and not overdo this native plant enhancement or you may have too much good food source for your deer during hunting season and they may not need to move around and browse much. If you are smart with this project you could have a native, very remote, and secret food plot which could pay you back with a trophy buck.

Salt and Minerals - Salt blocks and mineral blocks are used by a lot of hunt clubs, but they are not as effective as a formulated granulated mineral supplement. The reason goes back to the deer's natural instinct to stay on the move. Deer just don't like to stand a long time in one spot even to lick a mineral block. However, if they can get a mouth full of mineral supplement and move on — this they will do.

Feeders - Feeders are used by some hunt clubs and they are OK for turkeys and sometimes deer, however, if you use them, they should be moved around to different areas. The reason for this is to protect your animals from predators. Predators will begin to pattern your wildlife going to the feeders every day and will wait there to ambush them. By moving the feeders periodically you prevent the patterning by predators. The wildlife will find the feeders by smell and sound.