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# MORE COVER MEANS MORE GAME



HABITAT IS THE KEY TO GAME ABUNDANCE

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 FOURTH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

Hunting in Iowa is primarily for small game, such as pheasants, quail, rabbits and squirrels; and most hunting activity takes place on private land. The manner in which the farmer manages or uses his land is a major factor in determining the abundance of game. On nearly every farm there is a waste area or fence row that can be developed for wildlife cover. Often there is land available for windbreak or shelter belt plantings. Ditch bank plantings can be made along drainage ditches and other waterways. The Farm-Game Habitat Program is designed to develop these small areas by planting trees, shrubs, vines and grasses and fencing the area to protect it from grazing livestock. The developed areas provide winter cover and nesting cover for many species of birds and small animals, including game animals.

In the development of these areas, the State Conservation Commission agrees to furnish all trees, shrubs, vines and seeds and to furnish all labor for planting. The Commission also agrees to furnish fencing material (barbed wire), gates and signs and install them. Woven wire will be used if the farmer desires it and is willing to pay for it.

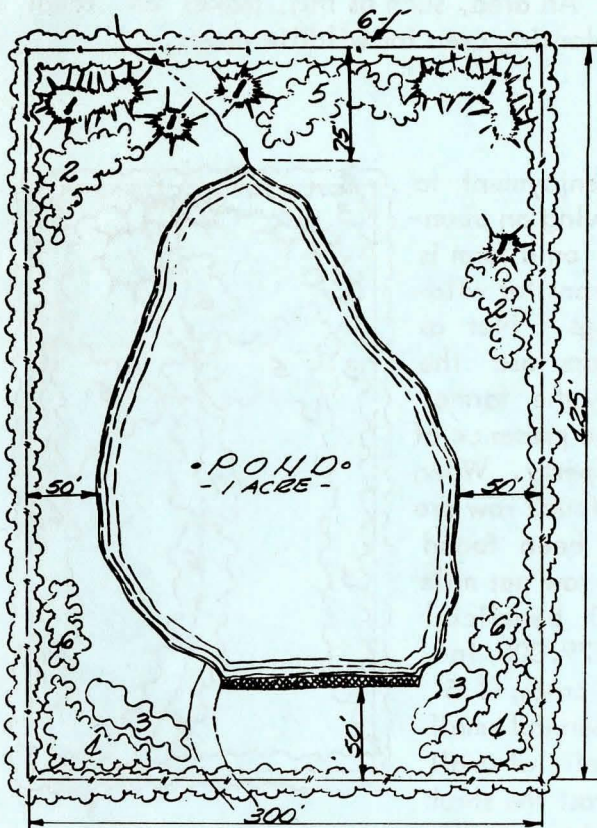
In return the farmer is obligated to maintain the area for its intended purpose and prevent damage to it by fire, mowing, spraying and grazing by livestock. He must also permit a reasonable amount of hunting on his farm.

All Farm-Game Habitat Areas in Iowa are financed by Commission fish and game funds. The funds are derived from the sale of hunting licenses. Under such a program, the hunter is paying his way to provide recreational hunting.

Application for these development projects may be made through your local Conservation Officer, S.C.S. representative, the Unit Game Manager for your district or the State Conservation Commission, East 7th & Court, Des Moines, Iowa.

## COMMON APPLICATIONS OF THE FARM - GAME HABITAT PROGRAM

A farm pond not only provides a prime family recreation area, but with proper cover plantings contributes to the wildlife cover available on a farm. Multiflora rose forms a living fence around the pond while additional plantings offer food and shelter for wildlife.

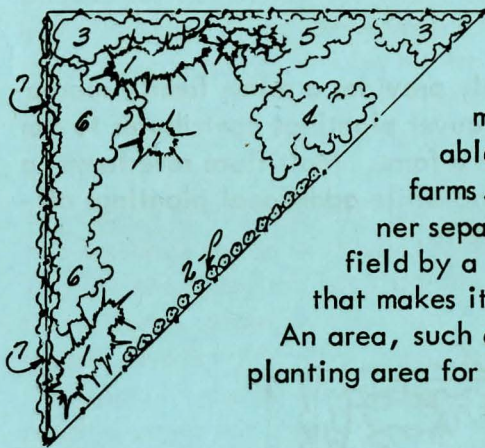


### KEY

1. Conifers
2. Honeysuckle
3. Dogwood
4. Wild Plum or Russian Olive
5. Ninebark
6. Multiflora Rose

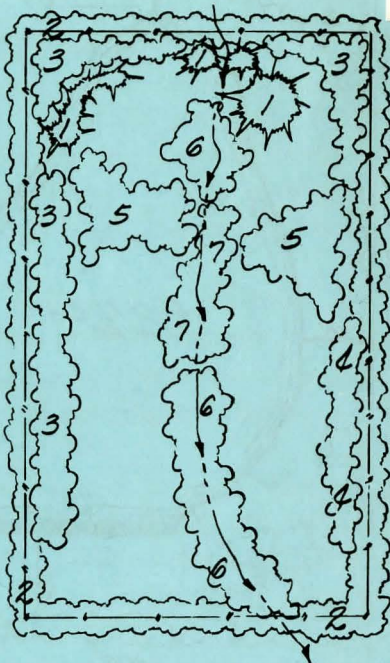
Many other trees and shrubs are suitable for wildlife cover plantings. These are merely suggestions.

The KEY for plants used in the two areas on this page are: 1. Conifer, 2. Multiflora Rose, 3. Honeysuckle, 4. Ninebark, 5. Russian Olive, 6. Dogwood, 7. Wild Grape.



This small corner area may be particularly adaptable for waste areas on some farms. Many fields have a corner separated from the rest of the field by a waterway, gully or run that makes it unhandy to work or crop. An area, such as this, makes an ideal planting area for wildlife cover.

The pure enjoyment to be gained from having an abundance of wildlife on a farm is one of the big reasons for wildlife cover plantings. Not as well known perhaps are the benefits gained by the farmer who encourages the presence of wildlife on his property. When a sod and a shrub fence row are compared, it has been found that the sod fence row per mile will contain: 500 beneficial ladybird beetles; 79,000 insects injurious to crops; 1.5 nesting birds; 84 harmful small animals and 8 beneficial small animals. By contrast the shrub fence row is found to contain per mile: 20,000 beneficial ladybird beetles; 54,000 insects injurious to farm crops; 21 nesting birds; 21 harmful small animals and 28 beneficial small animals. In the farmer's fight for pest control, plantings such as these offer very real economic returns.



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