



QUAIL COVEY

Bob-WHITE! Miss the quail's call on your land? Set a natural feast and watch quail, turkey and other upland birds flock back.

QUAIL NEED SPECIAL HABITAT.

In fact, a particular blend and arrangement of diverse native plants. This special type area creates a 'quail covey headquarters'. About **40 acres of native plants arranged to offer the right food, cover and nesting area.**

If you don't have 40 acres of your own, check out surrounding land parcels. Chances are, your neighbors may have complementary habitat that you can supplement. For best results, **convert at least 1/10 acre, or 4500 sq. ft. per 40 acres to quail habitat.** Years of research and wildlife study support this plan.

The **'quail covey headquarters'** is a management main-stay of wildlife managers. So much so that it may qualify for **funding to offset establishment costs.**

Wildlife-designed plantings like the 'Headquarters' can give you a higher Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) score. See your CRP contract for details on mix ratios and maintenance requirements. CRP is a voluntary government program aimed at conserving soil, water and wildlife resources. Learn more from agencies like the Missouri Department of Conservation. It removes erodible and sensitive lands from agricultural production to conserve resources. Contracts for land enrolled in the Program are 10 to 15 years. During that period, USDA provides a yearly rental payment to the landowner. Since 1987, USDA has made about \$50 billion in CRP payments to landowners.

Funding also may be available through non-government organizations. Quail Unlimited works through local chapters to subsidize landowner projects. The goal of Quail Unlimited is to increase regional habitat for quail. Learn more on the QU website, www.qu.org, or by calling national headquarters at 803-637-5731.



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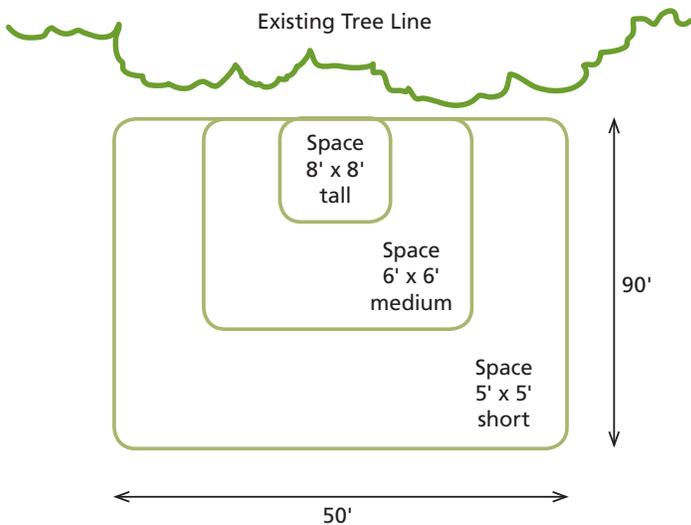
STRUCTURE

Covey headquarters are clumps or islands of dense, shrubby cover. They offer a canopy height of at least three feet and a little ground vegetation. This **structure provides escape cover and allows free movement**. Quail will also find **areas for 'loafing', or rest, and protection from predators**. Create adjoining **nesting and brood rearing habitat** with clump-forming grasses and bare ground. Along with a wooded edge or similar habitat, quail will find insects and other food.

Successful covey headquarters can be a **man-made or improved site**. Managing your site's woody vegetation will often do the trick. Look for a progression of short, herbaceous plants to taller woody plants. Adding a few missing native species can give you the right proportion of both size and density.

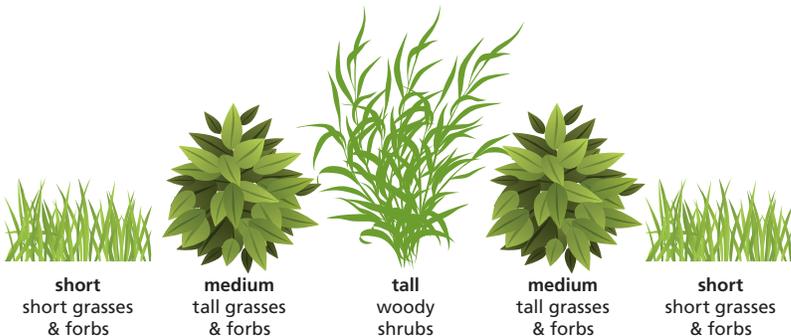
Plan View

Adjacent to wooded edge



Cross-Section View

A progression of short plants to taller, woody shrubs creates the proper structure.



MAINTENANCE

Once established, your Quail Covey Headquarters will need little care. In the first two seasons, keep your seeded planting zones mowed to about eight inches. This reduces competition to young native plants from annuals and weeds. Occasional mowing or burning in later years stimulates fresh growth in mature headquarters. With a quail covey headquarters, you can help keep the quail calling.

Not sure how to select plants for your project? Check out our website at www.forrestkeeling.com, or come to our Garden Store in Elsberry. Our staff will help you achieve your goals to increase the quail's call on your land.

Native plant recommendations

SEED MIX

Grasses

- Little Bluestem
- Big Bluestem
- Eastern Gamagrass
- Indian Grass
- Tall Nutgrass
- Sideoats Grama
- Canada or Virginia Wild Rye

Forbs

- Illinois Bundleflower
- Purple Prairie Clover
- White Prairie Clover
- Gray-headed Coneflower
- Purple Coneflower
- Leadplant
- Roundhead Lespedeza
- Slender Lespedeza
- Partridge Pea
- Showy Tickclover

WOODY SHRUBS

- Blackberry
- Gray Dogwood
- Roughleaf Dogwood
- Hazelnut/American Filbert
- Green Hawthorn
- False Indigo
- American Plum
- Chickasaw Plum
- Pasture Rose
- Serviceberry
- Fragrant Sumac
- Smooth Sumac
- Blackhaw Viburnum
- Nannyberry Viburnum



Simple Management

Manage for diverse quail habitat according to this simple concept: roughly 1/3 each grasses and forbs, shrubs and bare soil. The bare soil allows movement for birds and provides first-year annual succession.