

# WGF Grain Sorghum

- University developed specifically for game birds
- Resistant to sparrows, blackbirds during milk stage
- Resistant to weather deterioration of the grain

**Wildlife Grain Sorghum (WGF)** was specifically developed as a fall and winter food source for upland game birds (Quail, Turkey, Pheasant and Prairie Chicken) and migratory birds (Ducks, Geese and Doves).

**Wildlife Grain Sorghum** is a heavy seed producing, early maturing (43-50 day mid-bloom) strain developed specifically for upland game and migratory birds. The OK Agricultural Experimental Station and OK State Univ. cooperatively released **WGF**. Since that time, the product as been widely used throughout the US.

Unlike many conventional grain sorghum hybrids, **WGF** imparts a bitter taste to predatory birds (Sparrows, Blackbirds, Starlings, etc.) during the milk and dough stages of development. The bitter taste disappears at maturity of the plant.

The reddish-brown color apparently is only in the pericarp layer of the seed and acts as a mold and rotting repellent of the grain during exposure to winter weather conditions. In addition to providing a non-weathering and non-rotting winter food source for brood stocks, the crop residue provides an excellent source of beneficial cover for birds.

## Disease/Insect/Nematode Ratings:

Downy Mildew: ..... R

## Agronomic Traits:

Early Seedling Vigor: .....Good  
 Growth Habit: .....Upright with Medium Head  
 Days to Mid-bloom: ..... 43 to 50 days  
 Relative Maturity: .....85 to 90 days  
 Uniformity: .....Moderate  
 Average Plant Height: .....26 to 30"  
 Standability: .....Very Good

## Planting Rates:

Bushel Weight: ..... 56 lbs.  
 Seeds per Pound: .....19,000  
 Rate (Lbs.):            **Dryland**                    **Irrigated**  
 Rows: .....4 - 12 ..... 7 - 10  
 Broadcast: .....4 - 10 .....8 - 20  
 Seeds/Sq. Ft. ....2 - 4 ..... 6 - 12

## Adaptation Ratings:

Photosynthetic Type: .....C4 - Warm Season  
 Soil Temperature: .....Warm (60° F)  
 Water Requirement: .....Very Low

## Seeding:

- Soil temperature should be at least 60° F
- WGF is usually planted between June 10 and July 10 in the northern states
- Can be no tilled into the stubble of winter and spring crops
- Planting depth should be 1"
- Do not plant in soils with pH greater than 7.5 to 8.0. Chlorosis will be a severe problem
- WGF is an excellent companion with Black Autry Cowpeas and other game seed

## Harvest:

- Wildlife sunflower is usually ready for game bird feeding about 85 days after seeding

## Crop Use Information:

Life Cycle: .....Annual  
 Ease of Establishment: .....Good  
 Shade Tolerance: .....Poor - Fair  
 Drought Stress: .....Fair  
 Wet Soil: .....Fair  
 Low pH Tolerance: .....Moderate  
 Minimum pH: ..... 6.0  
 Saline Soils (White Alkali):.....Fair  
 Saline – Sodic Soils (Black Alkali): .....Poor - Fair  
 Hay: .....N/A  
 Silage: .....N/A  
 Grazing: .....Do not graze  
 Grain Palatability: .....Excellent

## Strengths

- Highly palatable after maturity to game birds
- Provides feed for many types of game
- Easily established
- Adapted over a wide area
- Responds well to varied weather conditions

## Weaknesses

- Requires warm soil temperature for germination



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