

MUSHROOM FOOD PLOT™

Starter 5.5 lb Pack

Native to North America, **SRA or Stropharia Rugosa Annulata** is very easy to grow on tree waste materials in nearly every climate in shade. Once established, the Mushroom Food Plot™ is nearly drought proof. Like all mushrooms, the SRA has two enemies, direct wind and full sun. So choosing the right site location is the key to amazing results.

Spawn

This 5.5 lb bag is enough SRA mushroom spawn for an area 6 inches deep, 5 foot wide and 10 foot long which is approximately 50 Sq ft. The bed can be any configuration as long as it totals approximately 50 sq ft. **Please refrigerate spawn if possible, it is a live organism. SRA spawn will often last months at room temperature in shade or in a cool basement but it is not ideal. Use as soon as possible please.**

When to plant

Plant your Mushroom Food Plot™ anytime the soil temperature is above 50 degrees Fahrenheit and will continue to be for 3-4 weeks in the future. Mushroom Food Plot™ creation is ideal when the forecast is calling for a wet or rainy period ahead.

Site Selection

Shade is hands down the best spot. The darker the shade the better, because it will retain much more moisture, produce more mushrooms and produce them more often.

Mushroom Food Plots™ will be targeted very heavily by your doe population especially while nursing. Keep this in mind when you place them in to your land management plans. Often I recommend the clients place them in the timber near their other plots in the densest shade possible as a staging area.

Moisture maintenance

Moisture is key, sawdust, wood chips or mulch that are dry, will not work. Fresh cut material is perfect. Bagged materials may need irrigation by submerging in a tank, creek or pond for 4 hours or more. Starting off with plenty of moisture in the materials will allow rapid, vigorous growth and promote self maintenance with natural rains. The larger the mass of the plot, the more water it retains.

Ideally, 1/4 to 1/2 inch+ of rain falls per week for the first months after plot assembly. Supplemental irrigation using drip-lines or overhead spray is ideal and will ensure a more abundant crop at 1" per week of water if climactic conditions are correct.

Site Prep and Mushroom Food Plot™ Assembly

Materials

- **5 lb bag of SRA spawn (included)**
- **1/2 a pickup bed or 1 yard (27 cubic feet) of *hydrated*: mulch, woodchips or coarse sawdust**
- **1 bale of straw**

Soft Hardwoods and hardwoods are ideal, the fresher the better. Other materials like pine, fir and spruce should not be the sole ingredients, but are fine in a mix. Other mulches like white cedar and bald cypress will work in heavier amounts in a mix, but hardwood and softwood are most ideal. Diversity of particulate size is great, ***avoid using fine sawdust as the only material.***

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1. Prepare your site

A: **Blank site:** Rake or remove the leaves & other forest litter to the perimeter of the 50 square feet plot site to expose soil, mow or remove any unwanted vegetation if desired.

B: **Forestry mulched area:** skip to next step, Mushroom Food Plot™ assembly.

2. Prep your Spawn

Crumble the spawn up inside the bag to the best of your ability, cut open the top of the bag and disperse by crumbling more with your clean hands as you spread it.

3. Assemble your Mushroom Food Plot™

Apply 25% of spawn to bare ground, scatter half of a bale of straw that's been pre-soaked overnight loosely to cover the area, add another layer of spawn (approximately 25%) and scatter the rest of the bale of straw (pre-soaked) on top of the first layer of straw and the spawn. Now add remaining 1/2 of the bag of spawn to top of straw and cover with 1 yd of wood chips at a depth of 3-6 inches, trying to completely cover the straw.

4. Complete your Mushroom Food Plot™

Tamp by foot or tool, ride over in ATV, UTV or use a cultipacker to ensure the materials are in contact and no large air voids are in the plot.

Replenishment

If you choose to let your Mushroom Food Plot™ rot down, it will turn into multiple inches of beautiful, black, rich soil in 2-3 seasons with no additional work. To refresh or rejuvenate, bi-annually dress with 3-6 inches of new wood chips, mulch etc. and elect to add new SRA spawn for consistent and robust, perennial production.