

MANAGING VEGETATION FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER HABITAT: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION. Kip P. Adams, Certified Wildlife Biologist and Northern Director of Education and Outreach, Quality Deer Management Association, Knoxville, PA 16928.

The Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization specializing in education. The QDMA helps hunters, landowners and land managers across North America improve their wildlife habitats, white-tailed deer herds and hunting opportunities. Habitat management is a cornerstone of quality deer management and is necessary for healthy deer populations. Proper habitat management provides adequate forage, nutrition and cover for deer in all age classes, and can be divided into forest, old field and food plot management. Wise forest management provides year around food and cover and includes a diversity of age classes interspersed across the landscape. Old field management provides seasonal food and cover and is used to complement a forest management program. A proper food plot program supplements natural vegetation and provides additional forage and high-quality nutrition for deer and other wildlife species. Some food plot species also provide cover. A well-planned habitat management program provides healthy habitats, productive wildlife species and great recreational opportunities.