

Fruit-bearing hardwood trees, shrubs, and vines that provide food (including browse) for deer in the Southeast include the following:

#### Trees

Beech  
Black Cherry  
Black Haw  
Black Locust  
Crab Apple  
Dogwood  
Hackberry  
Honey Locust  
Mulberry  
Oaks  
Persimmon  
Redbud  
Red Maple  
Sassafras  
Wild Plum

#### Shrubs

American Beautyberry  
Elderberry  
Gallberry  
Rhododendron  
Serviceberry  
Sumac  
Witch Hazel

#### Vines

Blackberry  
Greenbriar  
Honeysuckle  
Muscadine  
Poison Ivy  
Virginia Creeper



## White-Tailed Deer

### Habitat and Food Requirements

The white-tailed deer (doe) has an average home range of at least 1 square mile (640 acres), while mature bucks may range more than 3,000 acres annually. When basic biological needs for white-tailed deer are met on a suitably sized unit of land, deer might be less likely to leave, unless pressured by people, environmental conditions, or other animals. Mature hardwood forests, mixed pine-hardwood forests, pine forests (including managed plantations and natural forest), and open fields are some habitat types useful in helping meet habitat requirements.

The white-tailed deer browses on grass and other plants. It has four stomachs that help digest various foods, making it versatile in its feeding habits. It eats a variety of leaves, twigs, bark, buds of trees and shrubs, plus hard and soft fruits, vines, forbs, lichens, mushrooms, cultivated crops, and some grasses.

As far as nutrition, the two most critical times for white-tailed deer are late summer, when deer population levels are high and food quality is poor, and late winter, when food quality and quantity are low and mast (fruit) from oaks and other trees is scarce. These are times food plots can be good for deer. If at least one percent of an area is planted in food plots, the plots can positively benefit white-tails.

During the spring and early summer, deer browse is high in protein and complex carbohydrates. At this time, weights are increased for winter. Body fat stores are increased during the fall and early winter months with a variety of mast crops, including red and white oak acorns, which are good sources of carbohydrates.