

populations in an area. A complex of corn, sorghum, and small grain crop fields; unmowed haylands; native prairie grasslands and other dense vegetation cover; overgrown field borders and other edge habitats; and grassy or shrubby odd areas and field corners create an interspersed of habitats that provide food and cover needs for ring-necked pheasants. Cattail marshes, briar patches, wood lots, old fields, windbreaks and shelterbelts provide valuable cover as well when combined with other preferred pheasant habitat components. Linear corridors in the form of windbreaks, shelterbelts, overgrown hedgerows and fence rows, service roads, and weedy roadsides, filter strips and field borders that connect the various types of cover maximize the overall habitat quality of an area for ring-necked pheasants.

Ring-necked Pheasant Habitat Requirements Summary Table.

Habitat Component	Habitat Requirements
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop fields of corn, sorghum, oats, wheat, barley and other small grains. • Wild haylands, big and little bluestem, Indiangrass, sideoats grama, switchgrass, native forbs. • Dense vegetation growing along overgrown fencerows, windbreaks, shelterbelts, roadsides and field ditches, small woodlots, old fields, and grassy or shrubby odd areas and field corners.
Food – young	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insects: grasshoppers, crickets, potato beetles, caterpillars of gypsy moths and browntail moths, tent caterpillars, cutworms and others.
Food – adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forb seeds: legumes, ragweeds, smartweed, crotons, burdocks, others. • Cultivated crops: corn, milo, wheat, grain sorghum, barley, oats, buckwheat, sunflowers. • Mast: acorns, pine seeds, various berries. • Insects: grasshoppers, crickets, potato beetles, caterpillars of gypsy moths and browntail moths, tent caterpillars, cutworms and others.
Cover - nesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheat stubble, winter wheat, undisturbed grasslands and pastures, unmowed native and alfalfa haylands, grassy field corners and odd areas, overgrown hedgerows and fencerows. • Alfalfa, vetch, sweet clover, and cool season grasses and forbs providing residual cover and ground litter.
Cover- brood-rearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix of grass and forbs providing movement of foraging chicks along the ground with overhead cover. • Big and little bluestems, sideoats grama, switchgrass, tall and intermediate wheat grasses, smooth brome, wildrye, Indian grass and mixed grasses and forbs.
Cover – winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weedy fencerows, dense, undisturbed grasslands, old fields. • Weedy playa lake bottoms, cattail marshes. • Low-growing evergreen/hardwood windbreaks and shelterbelts, low-growing grassy and shrubby habitats.
Cover – roosting and escape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees, tall shrubs, hedges, weedy field borders, ditch banks, and fence corners. • Cattail marshes, brush heaps, briar patches, small farmland woodlots and thickets.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily foods eaten provide an adequate amount of water.
Interspersion	<p>Complex of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cropfields of corn, sorghum, oats, wheat and barley stubble. • Wild haylands, big and little bluestem, Indiangrass, sideoats grama, switchgrass, tall and intermediate wheat grasses, smooth brome, wildrye, alfalfa, vetch, sweet clover. • Grassy roadsides, field borders, filter strips and ditch banks, cattail marshes, abandoned farmsteads, grass/shrub-mixed odd areas and field corners. • Brush heaps, briar patches, small farmland woodlots, and travel corridors consisting of hedgerows, overgrown fence-rows, field borders, grassed waterways, windbreaks, and shelterbelts.
Minimum Habitat Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,000 acres; however, daily activities of ring-necked pheasants are typically conducted on one square mile or less under optimal habitat conditions.