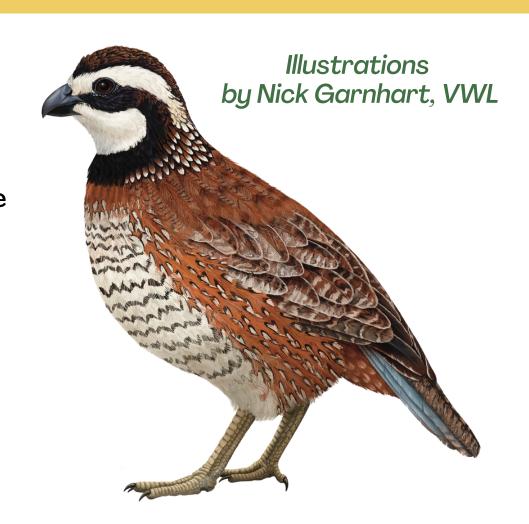
## Best Management Practices for Quail

## Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative

## Northern Bobwhite Quail & Their Future

Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) quail populations in Virginia have fallen, in large part due to habitat fragmentation, changes to existing habitat, and increased intensity of land management and farming techniques. It is therefore critical to assess land management practices, especially on private lands, to evaluate how they are impacting quail habitat. If ample and suitable habitat is available, and if weather is favorable, quail populations are likely to rebound. Ultimately, the fate of quail populations will be determined by the management practices of private landowners and their willingness to work together across property lines.

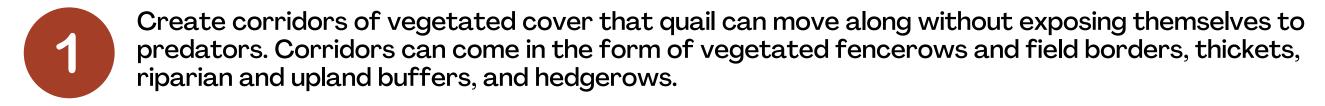
Keep in mind that current quail populations are small and fragmented. It may take time for them to re-establish in areas where they currently are not found but habitat restoration has occurred. In the meantime, rest assured that quail habitat is benefitting a myriad of other bird and wildlife species, which is a big conservation success.

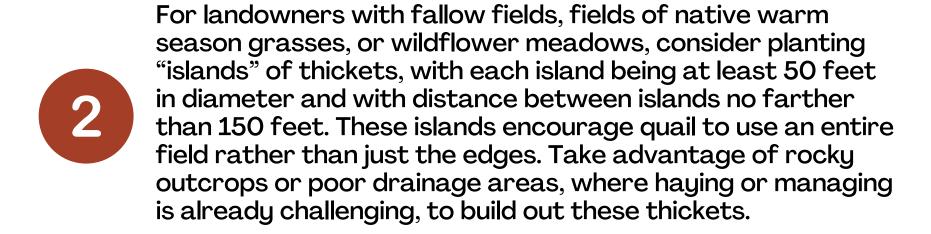


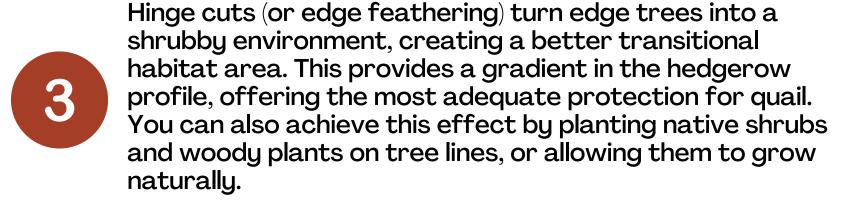
## **Managing for Quail Habitat**

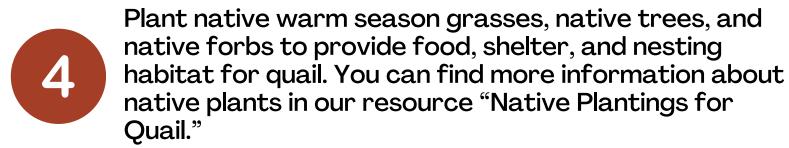
In the last 50 years, land management practices have steered in the direction of mass production agriculture, loss of native grasslands in favor of non-native cool season grasses, and "aesthetically" pleasing landscaping. However, these modified landscapes do not provide shelter, food, and nesting habitat for many species, including quail.

There are a myriad of different land management practices for all types of land uses that will help to support the rejuvenation of quail populations in Virginia. Listed below are a suite of recommendations for managing habitat to support quail, several of which are also illustrated on the following page.



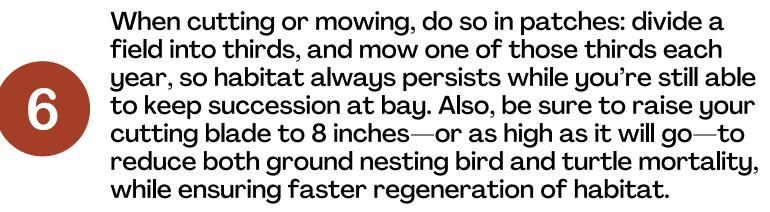








Reduce the amount of mowing, clipping, and bushhogging that is undertaken on your landscape, and avoid cutting fields between May and August when quail are nesting.





Prescribed burning can promote the regeneration of good quail habitat. Consult your local Department of Forestry (DOF) or NRCS agent to learn more about burning as an option for your landscape.

Remove feral domestic cats from your landscape. Quail are ground-nesting birds and cats are extremely efficient ground-hunting predators!













