Legume
Clover, Balansa
Trifolium michelianum

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Cool-season annual legume. Good N fixer. Good for forage. Blooms attractive to pollinators. Can re-seed if managed for such. Can be hard seeded. Slow seedling establishment compared to other clovers but puts on large amount of biomass the following spring, flowering about two weeks later than crimson clover. Similar to berseem clover. Seed with low rate of oats for late summer/fall seeding if erosion is a concern.
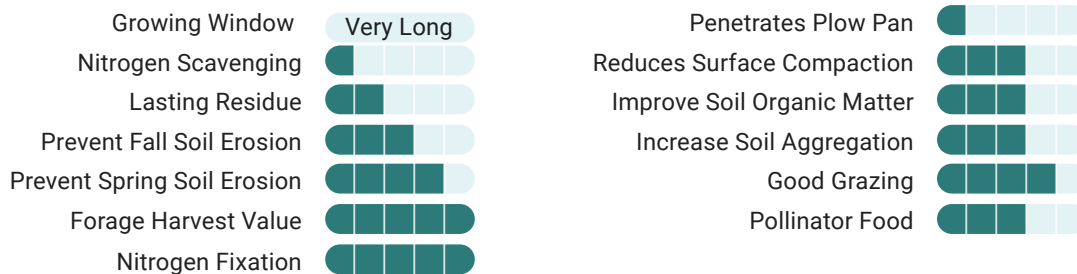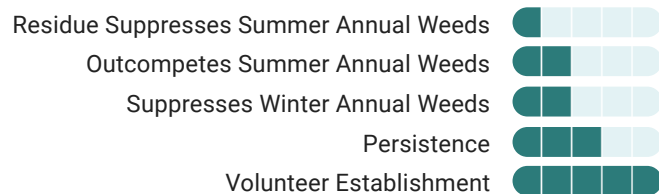

Clover, Balansa - WikimediaCommons [2008]

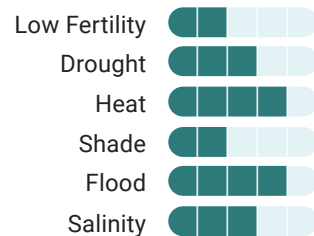Clover, Balansa - Salon [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window	Very Long
Nitrogen Scavenging	▪
Lasting Residue	▪▪
Prevent Fall Soil Erosion	▪▪▪
Prevent Spring Soil Erosion	▪▪▪
Forage Harvest Value	▪▪▪▪▪
Nitrogen Fixation	▪▪▪▪▪

Penetrates Plow Pan	▪
Reduces Surface Compaction	▪▪▪
Improve Soil Organic Matter	▪▪▪
Increase Soil Aggregation	▪▪▪
Good Grazing	▪▪▪▪
Pollinator Food	▪▪▪

WEEDS

Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds	▪▪
Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds	▪▪
Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds	▪▪▪
Persistence	▪▪▪
Volunteer Establishment	▪▪▪▪▪

ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

Low Fertility	▪▪
Drought	▪▪▪
Heat	▪▪▪▪
Shade	▪▪
Flood	▪▪▪
Salinity	▪▪▪

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Growth Traits

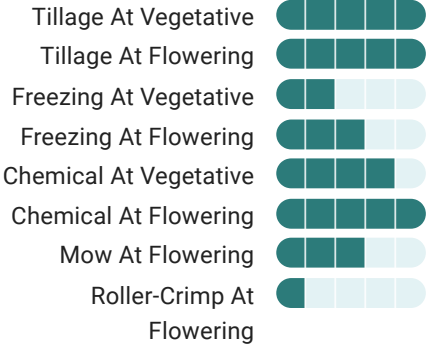|	
Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Emerging
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	1200 - 3000
Soil Texture	Fine
	Medium
Soil pH	6.5 - 8
Soil Moisture Use	Medium
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Nitrogen Accumulation (Lbs/A/Yr)	70 - 150
Ease Of Establishment	▰▰
Establishes Quickly	▰
Early Spring Growth	▰▰▰
Flowering Trigger	Vernalization
Root Depth	Medium
Inoculant Type	Berseem Clover
	Crimson Clover

Soil Drainage

- Very Poorly Drained
- Poorly Drained
- **Somewhat Poorly Drained** ●
- **Moderately Well Drained** ●
- **Well Drained** ●
- Excessively Drained
- Saturated Muck
- Well Drained Muck
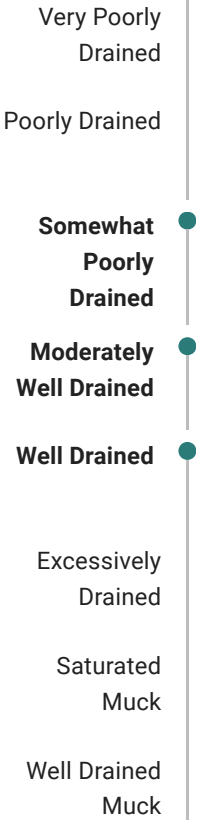
Planting

Seeds Per Lb	500000
Seed Price Per Lb	💲💲💲
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	8 - 15
Drilled Depth	0.25" - 0.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	Yes
Min Germination Temp (°F)	42

Termination

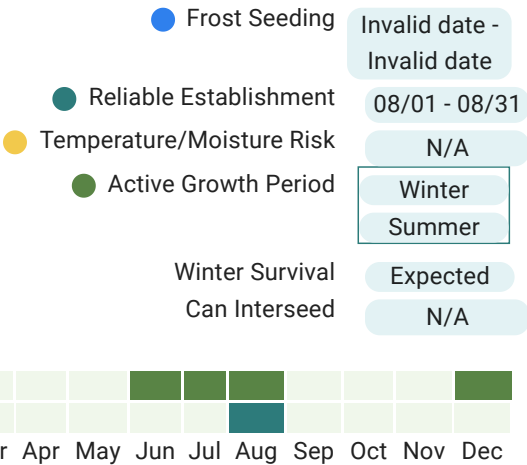|	
Tillage At Vegetative	▰▰▰▰
Tillage At Flowering	▰▰▰▰
Freezing At Vegetative	▰
Freezing At Flowering	▰▰
Chemical At Vegetative	▰▰▰
Chemical At Flowering	▰▰▰▰
Mow At Flowering	▰▰
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	▰

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Planting and Growth Windows

🔵 Frost Seeding	Invalid date - Invalid date
🟢 Reliable Establishment	08/01 - 08/31
🟡 Temperature/Moisture Risk	N/A
🟢 Active Growth Period	Winter / Summer
Winter Survival	Expected
Can Interseed	N/A

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Extended Comments

Planting: Frost seeding needs more research for this species due to its slow initial establishment. Frost seeding may not be advisable in coastal areas. Grows rapidly in spring.

Termination: If using herbicides to terminate use a tank mixture (e.g., glyphosate + dicamba or 2,4-d)

Growth, Roots, and Nutrients: The Balansa clover seed is very small, for successful Balansa Clover establishment the soil should be firm (packed). A small seed, it should not be planted too deep, only up to ¼ inch deep. Most establishment problems have resulted from planting the seed to deep. In mixes, include this in the small box of the drill or adjust the drill accordingly that the seed is not placed too deep.

Pollinators: Delay termination until at least 30-50% bloom to maximize value to pollinators.

Nematodes: Host for root-knot nematode.

References & Resources