

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Short-lived upright perennial, often lasts two years. Often grown for hay. Best on good soils with high fertility; tolerates some wetness. Establishes readily, shade tolerant, very winter-hardy, inexpensive. One of the best legume choices for frost seeding into pastures or winter wheat and for interseeding into corn. Resists some problem nematodes, good taproot. Moderate to excellent N fixation depending on planting timing. Excellent forage, blooms for pollinators. For fall-seeding, use multi-cut medium or one-cut mammoth varieties. Multi-cut "medium" types best for spring planting. Avoid seed set by harvesting regularly at 1/4 - 1/3 bloom. Mix with grasses like orchardgrass or fescue to moderate C:N ratio at termination. Consider seeding with spring oat nurse crop at low rate in fall or small grain that will be harvested/mowed to "release" clover understory. Inoculate with appropriate Rhizobium spp.; cross inoculates with crimson or white clover. Slower growing, must be seeded earlier and killed later than other fall-seeded legumes.







Clover, Red - 2020 [NaN]



Clover, Red - Salon [2020]



Clover, Red - Salon [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window 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

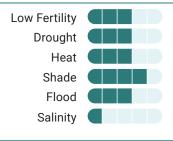


WEEDS

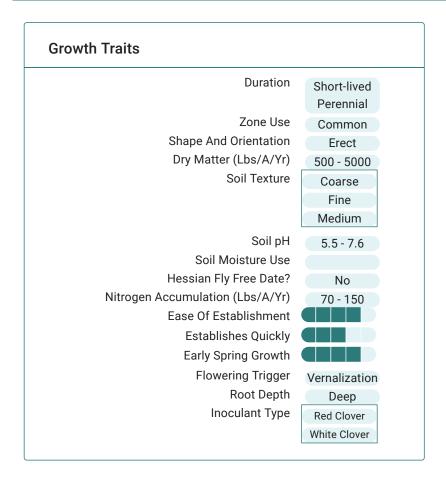
Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence

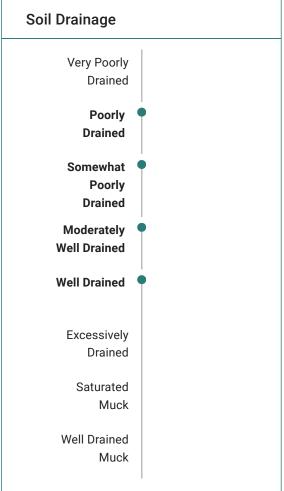


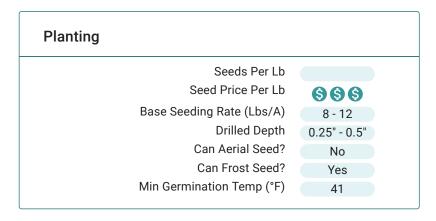
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

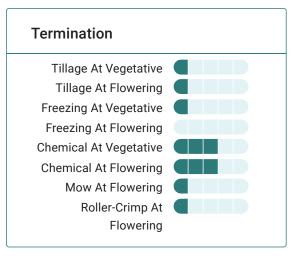




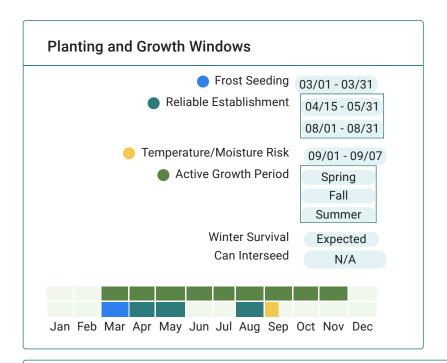












Extended Comments

Forage and Grazing: Manage for bloat when grazing. When the crop is stressed it can produce phytoestrogens, so do not graze breeding/pregnant sheep on Red Clover. Particularly palatable to voles.

Insects: Reduced stripped cucumber beetle and melon aphid numbers when interplanted with cucumber and resulted in greater number of Orius, Geocoris and lady beetles in interplanted compared to cuke monoculture. Interplanted with bell pepper resulted in lower percentage of European corn borer infested fruit

Growth, Roots, and Nutrients: Medium Red Clover seed is a small seed, for successful Red Clover establishment the soil should be firm (packed). 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.

Nematodes: Host for root-knot nematode.

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

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





References & Resources

Cover Crops and Green Manures, University of Vermont Extension

2016 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial, University of Vermont Extension

2015 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial, University of Vermont Extension

<u>Under Cover – Integrating Cover Crops into Silage Corn Systems</u>, University of Vermont Extension

Cover Cropping for Success, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Cover Crops for Home Gardens, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Selected Green Manures and Cover Crops for Maine, University of Maine

Selecting Forage Crops for Your Farm, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Growing Forage Legumes in Maine, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

<u>Cover Crops – What a Difference a Few Weeks Makes</u>, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Medium Red Clover, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Early Spring Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Late Summer Legumes, Cornell University Cooperative Extension