Clover, Balansa

Trifolium michelianum





PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

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.

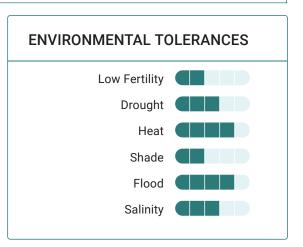




Clover, Balansa - WikimediaCommons [2008] Clover, Balansa - Salon [2020]

GOALS Penetrates Plow Pan **Growing Window** Very Long **Reduces Surface Compaction** Nitrogen Scavenging Lasting Residue Improve Soil Organic Matter Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Increase Soil Aggregation **Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Good Grazing** Forage Harvest Value Pollinator Food Nitrogen Fixation





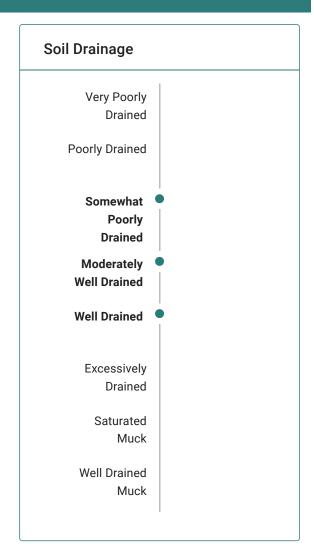
Clover, Balansa

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♠ PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

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



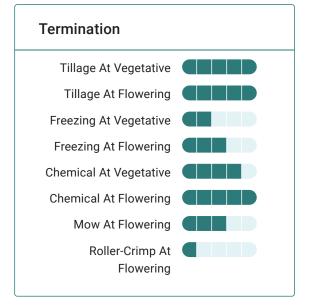
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♣ PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

Planting	
Seeds Per Lb	500000
Seed Price Per Lb	999
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





Legume

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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

Use of Cover Crops and Green Manures to Attract Beneficial Insects, University of Connecticut Integrated Pest Management Program