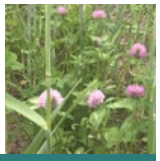
Legume
Clover, Red
Trifolium pratense



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

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 - Ackroyd [2020]


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	
Volunteer Establishment	

ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

Low Fertility	
Drought	
Heat	
Shade	
Flood	
Salinity	

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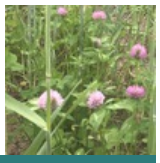

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Growth Traits

Duration	Short-lived Perennial
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	500 - 5000
Soil Texture	Coarse Fine Medium
Soil pH	5.5 - 7.6
Soil Moisture Use	
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	Deep
Inoculant Type	Red Clover White 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	
Seed Price Per Lb	$$$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	8 - 12
Drilled Depth	0.25" - 0.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	Yes
Min Germination Temp (°F)	41

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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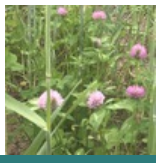
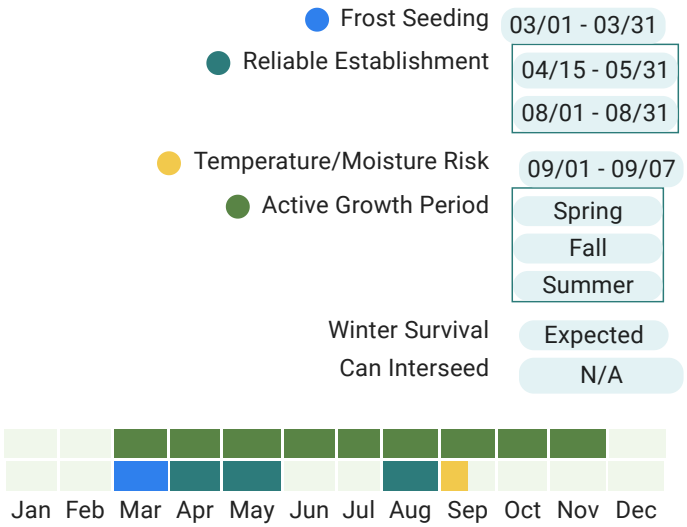


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

Planting and Growth Windows



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)

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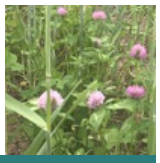

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References & Resources

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2015 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial, University of Vermont Extension
Under Cover – Integrating Cover Crops into Silage Corn Systems, 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
Cover Crops – What a Difference a Few Weeks Makes, Cornell University Cooperative Extension
Early Spring Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension