

Legume  
**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.

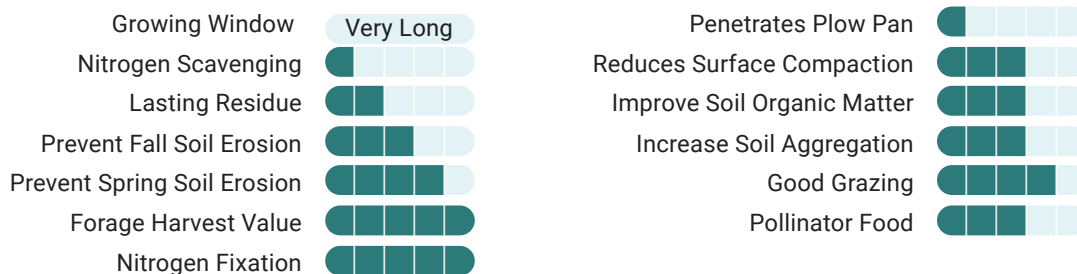


Clover, Balansa - WikimediaCommons [2008]

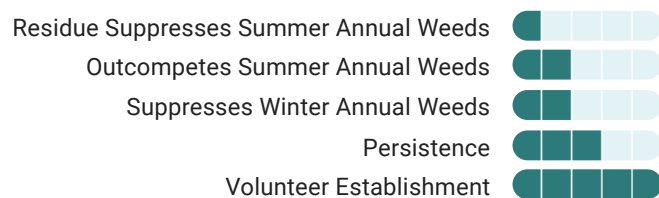


Clover, Balansa - Salon [2020]

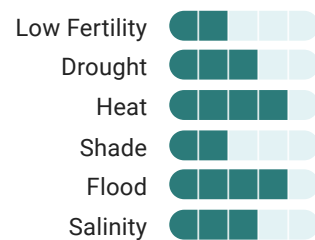
### GOALS



### WEEDS



### ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



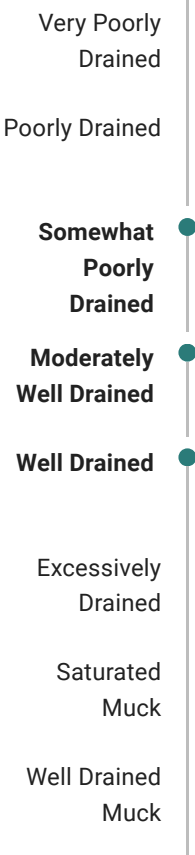


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Growth Traits

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 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            | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |
| Establishes Quickly              | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |
| Early Spring Growth              | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |
| Flowering Trigger                | Vernalization  |
| Root Depth                       | Medium   |
| Inoculant Type                   | Berseem Clover   |
|                                  | Crimson Clover   |

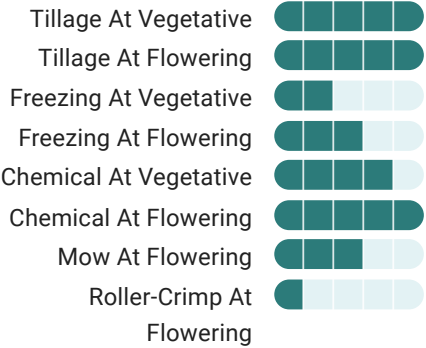
Soil Drainage



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





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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

JanFebMarAprMayJunJulAugSepOctNovDec

### 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 too 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