

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

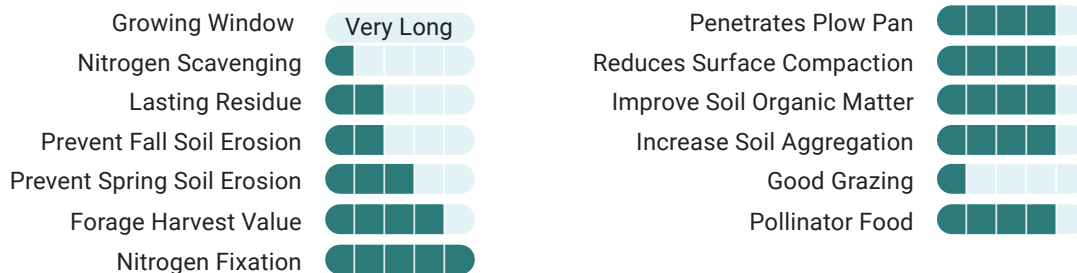
COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Biennial. Historically a popular green manure. Prefers mild conditions, but most drought-tolerant legume once established. Not suitable for wet soils. Known for deep subsoiling, N fixation, high biomass, and sweet-smelling blooms that are beneficial for pollinators. Hard-seeded, some planted seed may germinate in future seasons. Lots of small seeds, mow or terminate before they are viable. Growth in the first season is mostly underground, it should not flower; avoid mowing. After overwintering, second season growth is aboveground. Inoculate; cross-inoculates with alfalfa. Cultivar considerations: 'Hubam' annual white sweetclover is also seeded in spring, but doesn't overwinter.

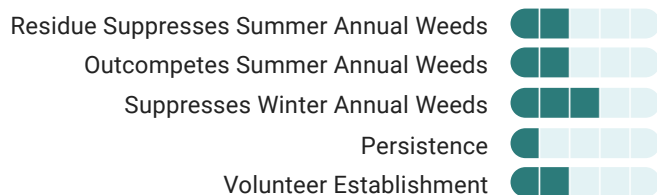


Sweetclover, Yellow - PublicDomain [2017]

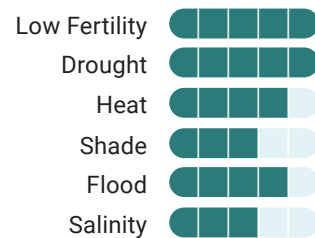
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



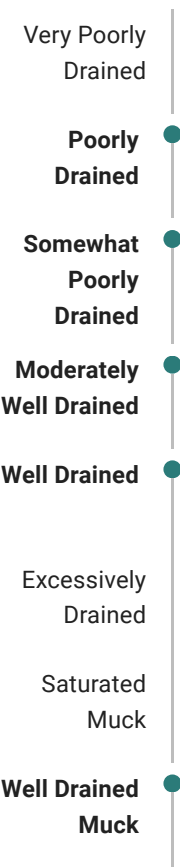


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Growth Traits

Duration	Biennial, Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	3000 - 5000
Soil Texture	Coarse Fine Medium
Soil pH	6.5 - 8
Soil Moisture Use	Medium
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Nitrogen Accumulation (Lbs/A/Yr)	90 - 170
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	Deep
Inoculant Type	Alfalfa Sweetclover

Soil Drainage



Planting

Seeds Per Lb	259000
Seed Price Per Lb	\$\$\$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	6 - 10
Drilled Depth	0.25" - 0.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	Yes
Min Germination Temp (°F)	42

Termination

Tillage At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Tillage At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Freezing At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Freezing At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Chemical At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Chemical At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Mow At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

Legume
Sweetclover, Yellow
Melilotus officinalis



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Planting and Growth Windows

● Frost Seeding	02/01 - 03/15
● Reliable Establishment	03/01 - 08/15
● Temperature/Moisture Risk	N/A
● Active Growth Period	Summer
Winter Survival	Expected
Can Interseed	N/A



Extended Comments

Planting: Frost seeding may not be advisable in coastal areas.

Termination: If using herbicides to terminate use a tank mixture (e.g., glyphosate + dicamba or 2,4-d). Normally flowers after winter in second year of life cycle, flowering unlikely to co-occur with freezing temps. Terminate at onset of flowering to avoid risk of self-seeding.

Weeds: Mature plants become woody; kills easily; hard seeds reseed

Pollinators: Excellent bee forage, particularly attractive to honeybees. Delay termination/cutting until at least 30-50% bloom to maximize value to pollinators.

Nematodes: Host for some root-knot nematode species, soybean cyst nematode.

References & Resources

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

Multiple Purpose Cover Crops, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut

Conservation Cover for Pollinators, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Cover Crops and Green Manure Crops – Benefits, Selection, and Use, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension

Cover Crops and Green Manures (New England Vegetable Management Guide), University of Massachusetts Extension

Choosing Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

Using Green Manures, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association