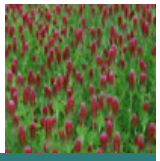
Legume
Clover, Crimson
Trifolium incarnatum

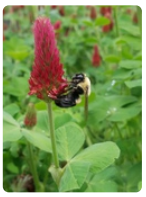


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

A cool season annual with a short, upright growth habit. Popular in warmer regions of the Northeast. Shade tolerant. Does not reliably overwinter in plant hardiness zone 5 and colder. Good forage producer, good N-fixer. Showy red blooms, good for pollinators. Can reseed quickly and become a weed. Host to some problem nematodes. Inoculate the seed with appropriate Rhizobium spp.; cross-inoculates with red or white clover. Mixes well with barley, wheat, triticale or annual ryegrass. Larger seeded and better seedling vigor than most clovers. Earlier-seeded, more fall growth, earlier spring bloom than hairy vetch. Slower residue breakdown of stems and N release than vetch.


Clover Crimson - Mirsky Lab [2020]


Clover Crimson - Aaron Sande [2020]


Clover Crimson - Bjorkman [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window	Medium
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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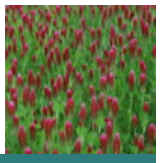

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET

Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Emerging
Shape And Orientation	Erect, Semi-Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	550 - 4500
Soil Texture	Coarse, Fine, Medium
Soil pH	5.5 - 7.5
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	Crimson Clover, Berseem 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	149800
Seed Price Per Lb	$$$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	10 - 20
Drilled Depth	0.25" - 0.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	42

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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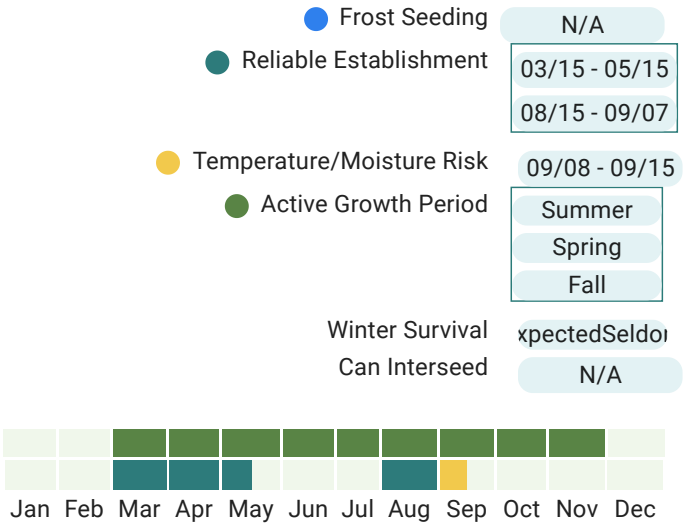
PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET

Planting and Growth Windows



Extended Comments

Environmental Tolerances: Winter survival depends on seeding: too early of a seeding it flowers and doesn't survive, too late and it doesn't establish and survive.

Basic Agronomics: Planting by early August will produce highest biomass before winter termination.

Termination: If using herbicides to terminate use a tank mixture (e.g., glyphosate + dicamba or 2,4-d). Roller crimping as a termination method has not been studied in zone 5.

Forage and Grazing: Failure to overwinter reliably in USDA hardiness zone 5 and less may limit utility for grazing and forage harvest unless planted in mid to late summer for winter termination.

Pollinators: Attracts bumblebee queens and honeybees. One of the earliest flowering clovers. Delay termination until at least 30-50% bloom to maximize value to pollinators.

Nematodes: Excellent host for root-knot nematode.

Insects: Used as an interplanted dying mulch can reduce CPB colonization in eggplant and enhance the ratio of generalist predators to CPB prey

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PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET

References & Resources

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Selected Green Manures and Cover Crops for Maine, University of Maine
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Cover Crops for Conservation Tillage Systems, Penn State Extension
Using Flowering Cover Crops for Native Pollinating Bee Conservation, Penn State Extension
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