

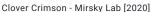


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

### **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.



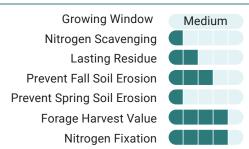




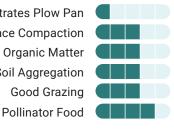
Clover Crimson - Mirsky Lab [2020] Clover Crimson - Aaron Sande [2020] Clover Crimson - Bjorkman [2020]



### **GOALS**

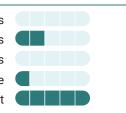


Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** 

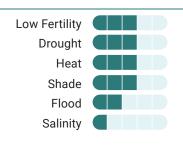


### **WEEDS**

Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment



# **ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES**

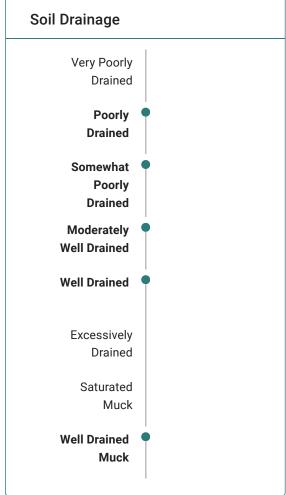




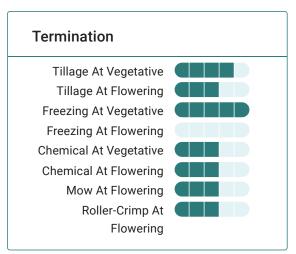


## PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET





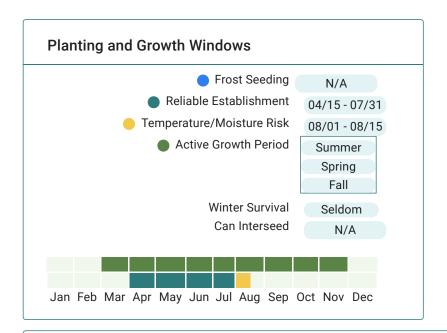








### PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET



### **Extended Comments**

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.

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

Nematodes: Excellent host for root-knot nematode.

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.

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.





## ♠ PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

## **References & Resources**

**2016 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial**, University of Vermont Extension

**2015 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial**, University of Vermont Extension

2014 Summer Cover Crop Mix, University of Vermont Extension

**UNH Researchers Find Forage Radish is the Cream of Cover Crops**, University of New Hampshire Ag Experiment Station

<u>Cover Crops for Home Gardens</u>, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

**<u>Using Green Manures</u>**, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Selected Green Manures and Cover Crops for Maine, University of Maine

<u>Cover Crops – What a Difference a Few Weeks Makes</u>, Cornell University Cooperative Extension