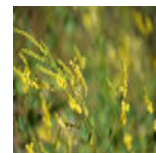


Legume
Sweetclover, Yellow
Melilotus officinalis



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

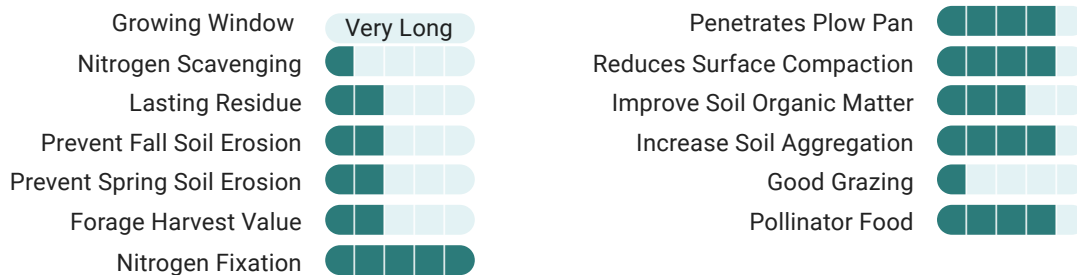
COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

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.

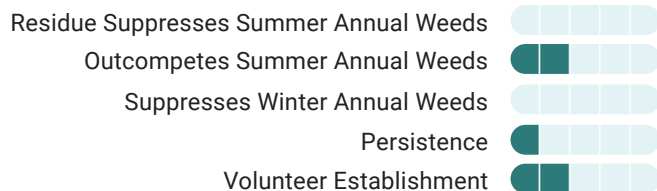


Sweetclover, Yellow - PublicDomain [2017]

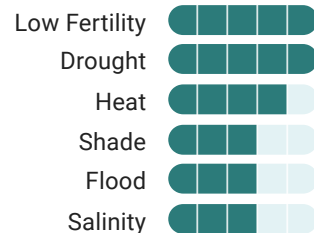
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



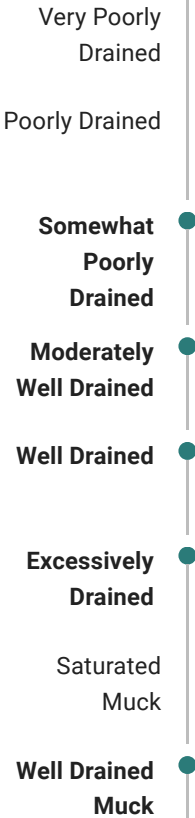


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

Growth Traits

Duration	Biennial
Zone Use	Emerging
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	3000 - 5000
Soil Texture	Coarse
	Fine
	Medium
Soil pH	6.5 - 8
Soil Moisture Use	
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Nitrogen Accumulation (Lbs/A/Yr)	90 - 170
Ease Of Establishment	
Establishes Quickly	
Early Spring Growth	
Flowering Trigger	Vernalization
Root Depth	Deep
Inoculant Type	Alfalfa
	Sweetclover

Soil Drainage



Planting

Seeds Per Lb	
Seed Price Per Lb	\$ \$ \$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	8 - 15
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	

Legume
Sweetclover, Yellow
Melilotus officinalis



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding	N/A
Reliable Establishment	04/15 - 08/15
Temperature/Moisture Risk	N/A
Active Growth Period	Summer
Winter Survival	Expected
Can Interseed	N/A



Extended Comments

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

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

Pollinators: Excellent bee forage, particularly attractive to honeybees. Delay termination/cutting 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)

References & Resources

Cover Crops and Green Manures, University of Vermont Extension
2015 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial, University of Vermont Extension
Using Green Manures, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association