



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 7 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. Good forage producer, good N-fixer. Showy red blooms, good for pollinators. Host to some problem nematodes. Inoculate the seed with appropriate Rhizobium spp.; cross-inoculates with red or white clover. Mixes well with barley, annual ryegrass, cereal rye. 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.



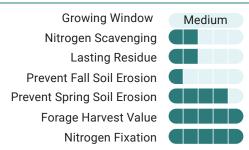




Clover Crimson - Mirsky Lab [2020] Clover Crimson - Aaron Sande [2020] Clover Crimson - Bjorkman [2020]



# **GOALS**



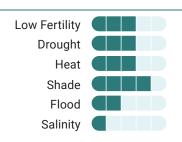
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food



### **WEEDS**



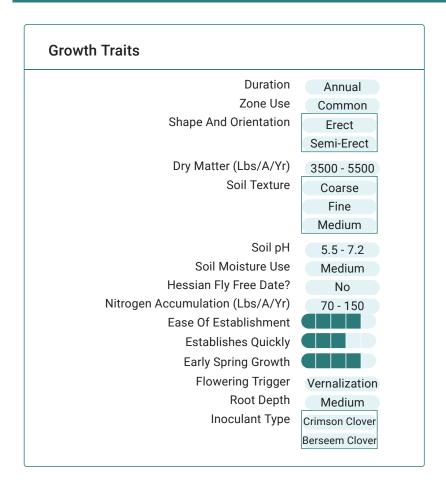
### **ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES**

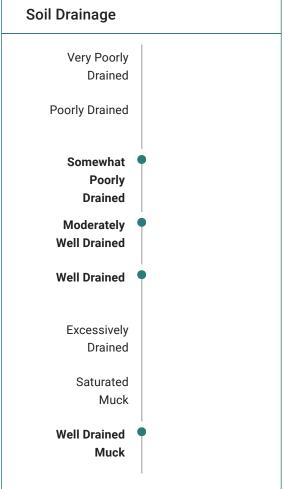


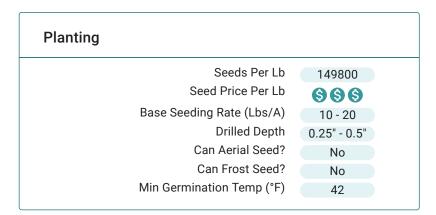


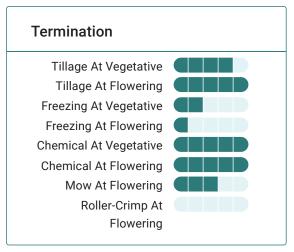


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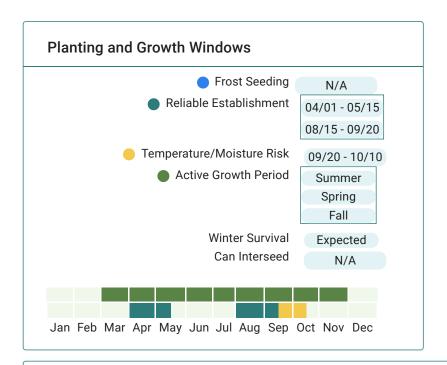








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## **Extended Comments**

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.

Goals: In USDA hardiness zone 7, there is rarely time between row crop harvest and the onset of winter to establish a crimson clover stand sufficient to protect against soil erosion in the fall-winter.

Nematodes: Excellent host for root-knot nematode.

Termination: If using herbicides to terminate use a tank mixture (e.g., glyphosate + dicamba or 2,4-d); do not rely on glyphosate alone. Freezing during the flowering stage unlikely.

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.





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## **References & Resources**

Planting Flowers for Bees in Connecticut, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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

Fall Cover Crops, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

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

<u>Choosing Cover Crops</u>, University of Massachusetts Extension

**Cover Crops**, University of Maryland Extension

**Plant Cover Crops**, University of Maryland Extension

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

Cover Crops for Conservation Tillage Systems, Penn State Extension

**Using Flowering Cover Crops for Native Pollinating Bee Conservation**, Penn State Extension

Special Cover Crop Control Considerations, Penn State Extension