



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 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.

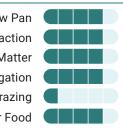


Sweetclover, Yellow - PublicDomain [2017]

GOALS

Growing Window Very Long Nitrogen Scavenging Lasting Residue Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Forage Harvest Value Nitrogen Fixation

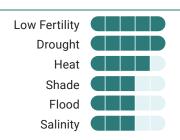
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food



WEEDS

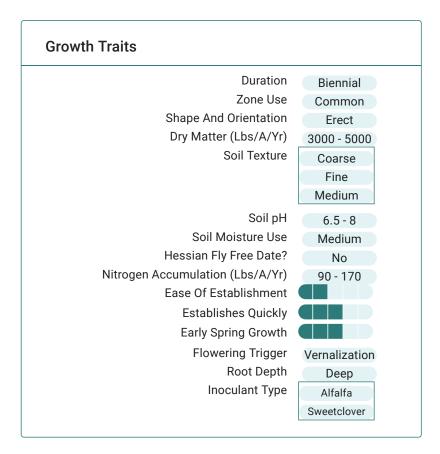
Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

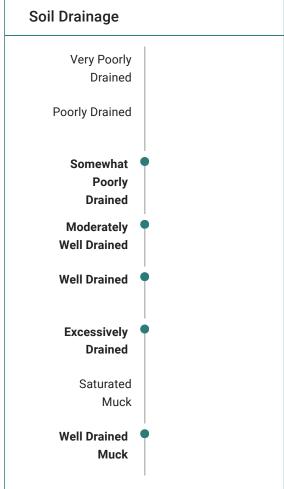
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

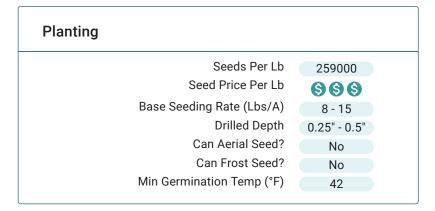


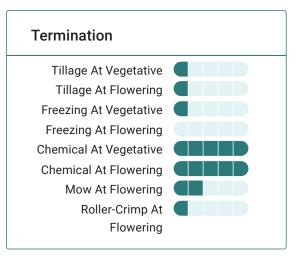


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET



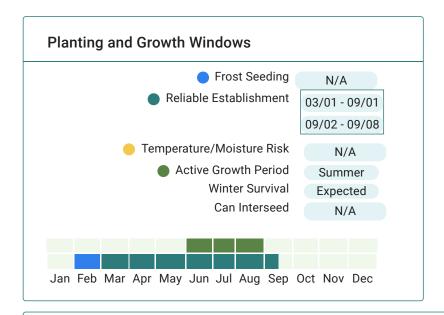








PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET



Extended Comments

Basic Agronomics: kill before bud stage for best nitrogen release

Termination: If using herbicides to terminate use a tank mixture (e.g., glyphosate + dicamba or 2,4-d)

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

Cover Crops and Green Manures, University of Vermont Extension

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

Conservation Cover for Pollinators, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

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

Choosing Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

Using Green Manures, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association