

LEGUME

Alfalfa, Dormant *Medicago sativa*

 This data is based on expert opinion.

100 x 100

 Plant Hardiness Zone 7 Dataset

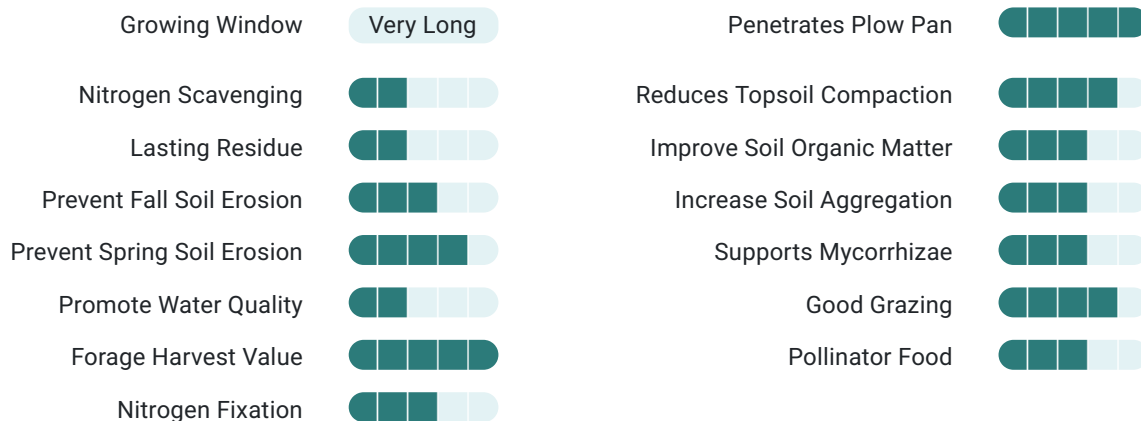
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COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Perennial. Not commonly used as a cover crop. Needs high soil pH, good fertility; not for wet soils. Good drought tolerance once established. Excellent legume hay crop, very deep taproot, excellent N fixer. Best for multi-year growth (2 to 6 summers) and double-duty as forage and soil builder. Cut for hay or clip occasionally to keep vegetative and maintain stand. For hay, 1st cut at bud stage, next cuts every 30-40 days (late bud to ¼ bloom), last cut in fall in time for 8" regrowth. Dormant in winter; mix with cool-season perennial grass (e.g., orchardgrass) or overseed with annual grass (e.g, wheat) for winter cover and to moderate C:N ratio at termination. Consider seeding with a nurse crop such as spring oats at low rate or small grains that will be harvested/mowed off to release perennial understory. Inoculate seed with the appropriate *Rhizobium* spp.; cross-inoculates with sweetclover.



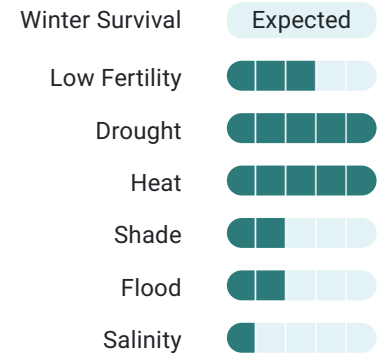
GOALS



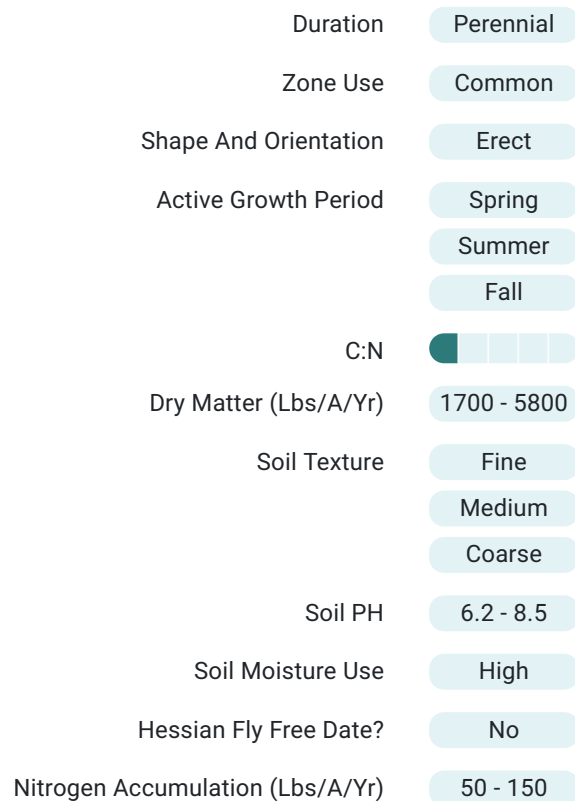
WEEDS



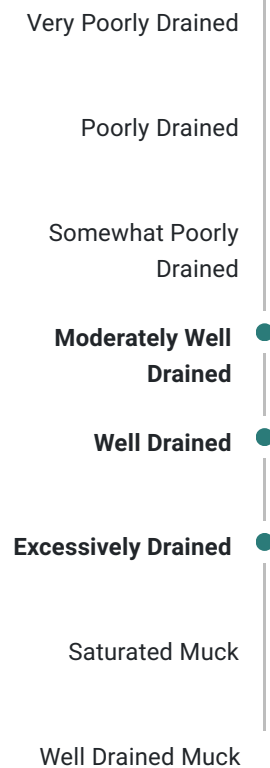
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



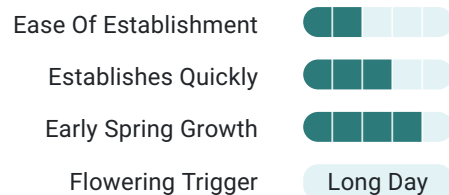
BASIC AGRONOMICS



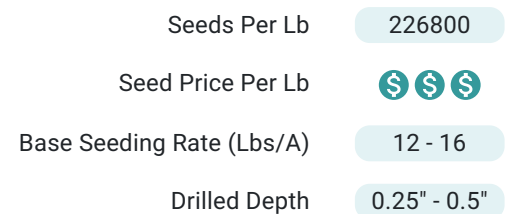
SOIL DRAINAGE



GROWTH



PLANTING



Root Architecture TapFibrous

Root Depth Deep

Inoculant Type Alfalfa


Sweetclover


Can Aerial Seed? No


Can Frost Seed? No


Min Germination Temp (°F) 34


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 

PLANTING DATES

Frost Seeding N/A

Reliable Establishment 08/15 - 09/01

Temperature/Moisture Risk N/A

Can Interseed N/A