



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

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

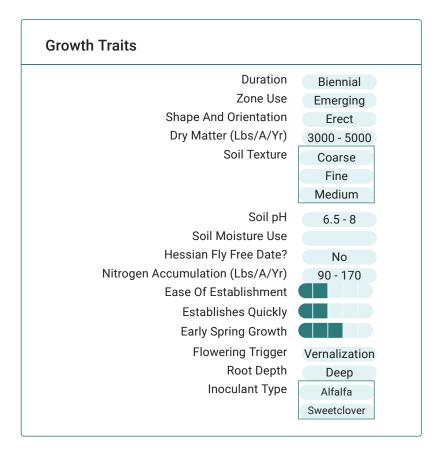


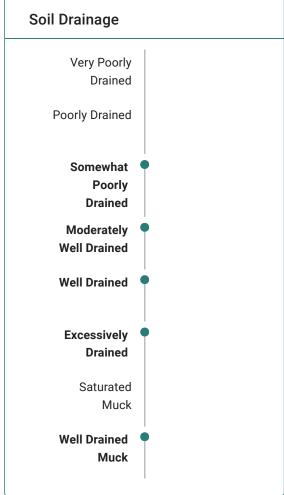
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

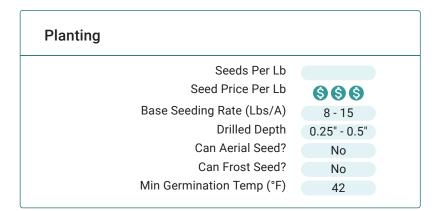
Low Fertility Drought Heat Shade Flood Salinity

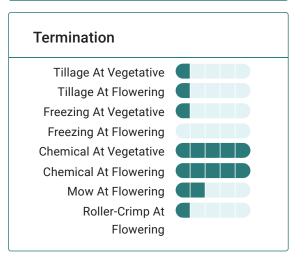


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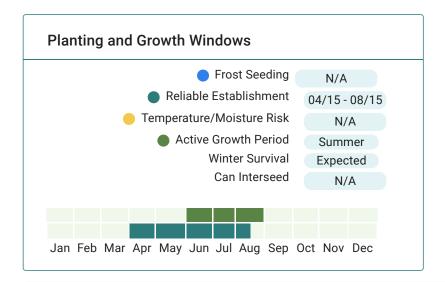








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Extended Comments

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