

Legume

Clover, Balansa

Trifolium michelianum



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Cool-season annual legume. Good N fixer. Good for forage. Blooms attractive to pollinators. Can re-seed if managed for such. Can be hard seeded. Slow seedling establishment compared to other clovers but puts on large amount of biomass the following spring, flowering about two weeks later than crimson clover. Similar to berseem clover. Seed with low rate of oats for late summer/fall seeding if erosion is a concern.



Clover, Balansa - WikimediaCommons [2008]

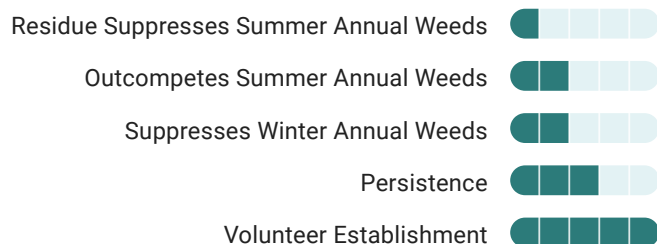


Clover, Balansa - Salon [2020]

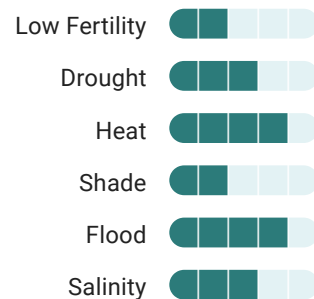
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Emerging
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	1200 - 3000
Soil Texture	<div><div>Fine</div><div>Medium</div></div>
Soil pH	6.5 - 8
Soil Moisture Use	Medium
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Nitrogen Accumulation (Lbs/A/Yr)	70 - 150
Ease Of Establishment	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Establishes Quickly	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Early Spring Growth	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Flowering Trigger	Vernalization
Root Depth	Medium
Inoculant Type	<div><div>Berseem Clover</div><div>Crimson Clover</div></div>

Soil Drainage

Very Poorly Drained	
Poorly Drained	
Somewhat Poorly Drained	<div><div></div></div>
Moderately Well Drained	<div><div></div></div>
Well Drained	<div><div></div></div>
Excessively Drained	
Saturated Muck	
Well Drained Muck	

Planting

Seeds Per Lb	500000
Seed Price Per Lb	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	8 - 15
Drilled Depth	0.25" - 0.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	Yes
Min Germination Temp (°F)	42

Termination

Tillage At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Tillage At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Freezing At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Freezing At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Chemical At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Chemical At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Mow At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

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Planting and Growth Windows

● Frost Seeding

Invalid date -
Invalid date

● Reliable Establishment

08/01 - 08/31

● Temperature/Moisture Risk

N/A

● Active Growth Period

Winter

Summer

Winter Survival

Expected

Can Interseed

N/A



Extended Comments

Planting: Frost seeding needs more research for this species due to its slow initial establishment. Frost seeding may not be advisable in coastal areas. Grows rapidly in spring.

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

Growth, Roots, and Nutrients: The Balansa clover seed is very small, for successful Balansa Clover establishment the soil should be firm (packed). A small seed, it should not be planted too deep, only up to ¼ inch deep. Most establishment problems have resulted from planting the seed too deep. In mixes, include this in the small box of the drill or adjust the drill accordingly that the seed is not placed too deep.

Pollinators: Delay termination until at least 30-50% bloom to maximize value to pollinators.

Nematodes: Host for root-knot nematode.

References & Resources

Use of Cover Crops and Green Manures to Attract Beneficial Insects. University of Connecticut Integrated Pest Management Program

