Growing plants in the greenhouse:

Downy mildrew

Who waters and takes care of the plants?

Experience growing white and red clover? Vetch?

Nutrients. Fertilizers?

Phacelia. & Buckwheat.

9 trays for each species

½ bench should be enough

light levels? Bc of shade cloth going up.

Blend: Use micronutrient blend: combine. Add micronutrients. 200 ppm nitrogen 25/20 150/14 fertilizer plus.

Micronutrient mix added to blend. 1.4% boron.

Milstop- sodium bicarbonate. Don’t use other fungicides.

See more in the fall.

Main campus: May 1st

BRC: June 1st

Vetch:

http://rodaleinstitute.org/almost-never-too-late-to-plant-hairy-vetch/

Hairy vetch:

Germination time,

I’m in Maine at a meeting most of this week.  I’ll probably not get back until late Friday and I don’t think I’ll be back in until next Tuesday.

Growing clover is pretty easy.   It may take six weeks or so to get them to a stage in which they start blooming.  Also, if you are planning to plant them now and get them to bloom by May,  I think you’ll want to give them some extra light to extend day length.     I do have some ‘Pinnacle’ white clover seed.  This is the cultivar that bloomed so well for me in my studies.  This seed is old so, if you use it, I would suggest you plant at a double rate and once the seedlings are up, you can thin out if you have too many.

Assuring adequate nutrients is important, so discuss with Jane what she usually does for her plants at her greenhouse.  I know at UVM, they will give you an option for straight water or water with Hoagland’s solution.    The one micronutrient that I know can be associate with flowering of legumes is boron.  If Jane uses something like a Hoagland’s or hydroponic nutrient solution, that shouldn’t be an issue.

If you are not planning to fertilize them with any nitrogen fertilizer, you need to make sure and get the proper strains of rhizobia inoculant.  Jane may have some if she is growing either of these as cover crops on her farm?

One thought would be to mix in some agricultural soil in which these legumes have grown into your potting mix.   But there is a risk of bringing in some soil borne diseases that way.    Jane – do you have some fields in which you’ve grown vetch?   I wouldn’t think red clover inoculant would be an issue in most of our ag soils since this clover has been used a lot in Vermont by our dairy farms.  Umm – perhaps it should be our State bacteria!

The one issue I’ve had with red clover in the greenhouse is downy mildew.  It seems to be very susceptible.   But I’m sure Jane has had a lot of experience managing that disease in the greenhouse.   I have not had any experience growing vetch in the greenhouse.

Sid

Clover planting:

5/16/16

Used Miracle Grow Potting mix

Used 11 (plus a little more) bags of soil to fill 102 pots (8 in. diameter, 6.5 in. deep)

Broadcasted seeds ~100+ seeds per pot

62 pots of white clover

20 pots Red clover

20 pots Birdsfoot trefoil

Almost filled the entire 55 ft.2 bench space.

Will thin when