



Medium Red clover

Trifolium pratense

Medium red clover is a short lived perennial used to supply nitrogen.

Unlike other legumes, it fixes a lot of nitrogen even in high-nitrogen soils. It has shade tolerance so it can be overseeded into small grains and incorporated in May of the following year. Since red clover seedlings tend to be slow growing it benefits from a nurse crop. It forms tap roots and is useful for remediation of compacted soils.



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| Land preparation | Medium red clover prefers cool weather conditions. This crop is well adapted a wide range of soil types and conditions. Medium red clover tolerates wet conditions better than vetch. ⁱ It can be overseeded on small grains and if the soil is not crusted Medium red clover can be overseeded in vegetable crops with no additional preparation to the land. |
| Seeding rate | Drill or broadcast at 10 lbs./acre ⁱⁱ Mix 2/3 annual ryegrass with 1/3 medium red clover, sow 20-25 lb/ac. After seeding roll the ground to improve seed to soil contact but not to break up soil aggregates. |
| Seeding date | February –March for frost seeded April – September Clover can be seeded with turf grass or small grains. |
| Seed sources | Local, AgriCulver, Seedway, Lakeview Organic Grain Good varieties of Medium red clover Redland III, Cinnamon Plus, Bulldog ⁱⁱⁱ Do not substitute Mammoth Red clover for cover crop use. |
| Maintenance | Mow medium red clover during the summer of the first year ^{iv} . It can be seeded between established rows reducing soil compaction in well traveled areas. Good weed suppression. |
| Control | Blossoms by May, incorporate when flowering. |
| Tips | Red clovers support aphid predators such as Ladybeetles, green lacewing larvae and hoverfly larvae. ^v Purchase good seed lot. To use as a nurse crop, seed with annual rye in June-July, buckwheat in August and Oats in September. |

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- ⁱ www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/afcm/vetch
- ⁱⁱ The New Farm's Cover Crop Guide P 12, 1988.
- ⁱⁱⁱ www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/ag/SustAg/research
- ^{iv} Clark, A. 2007. Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd ed., Sustainable Agriculture Network. p.161.
- ^v [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex132](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex132)