

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Landowner _____

White Clover

WHAT IS WHITE CLOVER?

White clover is a cool-season legume with solid creeping stems that root at nodes. It acts as an annual, biennial, or perennial depending on the variety and summer rainfall. The flowers are white to pink. There are several adapted varieties which include: Regal, Tillman, Louisiana S-1, and Nolin's Improved.

PURPOSES

It is primarily used for grazing. It can also be used for lawns or erosion control cover as well.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For additional information, contact your local Natural Resource Conservation Service or your local Conservation District Office.

APPLYING THE PRACTICE

Prepare a firm, weed-free seedbed. White clover can be planted in an established grass such as bermuda or fescue by disking then seeding with a sod-seeding machine. Grass sod should be clipped or grazed closely before seeding. Seeding in bermuda should be done near the time of the first frost.

Time: September 1 to November 30

Rate: 1 to 3 pounds per acre when overseeded in grass.
3 to 5 pounds when seeded alone.

Depth: ¼ to ½ inches if possible.

Method: When seeded alone, drill with a small seed attachment or broadcast and cover with a harrow. Can be overseeded in grass sod with a sod seeding machine, then disked

lightly or dragged with a harrow to get a better soil cover on the seed.

Weed control: Mow just above the top of the white clover.

CONSIDERATIONS

White clover is adapted to fertile, well-drained loam and clay soils.

White clover requires a high level of fertility. On soils testing low in available plant food nutrients, at least 80 pounds of P₂O₅ and 80 pounds of K₂O is required. The suggested pH range is 6.0 to 7.0, but will tolerate pH 5.5 to 8.0. Use soil tests if possible.

MAINTAINING THE PRACTICE

PASTURE: Allow plants to get 4-6 inches high before grazing. Do not graze lower than 3 inches for best results. It is best to maintain about a 50-50 grass-legume mixture. If white clover predominates, bloat can be a problem.

HAY: Cut for hay when plants are 1/10 to ¼ bloom. Cut no lower than 3 inches high.

SEED: Harvest when 75 percent of the seed coats turn brown. Harvest at the time of day when the crop is slightly damp and tough to prevent shattering.

WILDLIFE: Plant in plots of 2 to 10 acres per 160 acres area for deer and/or turkey.

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