

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
Arkansas Conservation Practice Job Sheet  
Forage and Biomass Planting (512) – White Clover Establishment

<b>Participant Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Program Name:</b>	<b>Contract/Plan:</b>



**Forage and Biomass Planting:** Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

- Forage and Biomass Planting may be applied for the following purposes:
  - Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.
  - Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production.
  - Reduce soil erosion.
  - Improve soil and water quality.
  - Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production.

**General Specifications**

Tract	Field	Acres	Planting Method	Planting Dates	Seeding Rate <sup>1</sup> (PLS per acre)	Planting Depth

<sup>1</sup> Use the higher seeding rate for broadcast seeding. Note: The bulk lbs of seed required will be higher if coated seed will be used.

**General Guidance:**

- ✓ All receipts and a copy of the seed tag must be kept and delivered to the NRCS field office. The receipts and seed tag(s) are required to verify that the planting was completed to specifications.
- ✓ The soil test results must be turned into the NRCS field office. It is encouraged that participants work cooperatively with NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on interpreting the soil test recommendations.

## No-Till Drilling

- 9-12 Months prior to Planting** – Obtain soil samples from the designated field(s). Deliver soil samples to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for processing. Request crop code 116 “Legumes Over-seeded into Grass Sod.”
- 6 Months prior to Planting** – Review soil test results. Apply lime according to soil test recommendations. Make preparations to apply nutrients according to soil test recommendations. Nutrients and soil amendments will be applied according to soil test recommendations. Contact the local NRCS office if you have questions about the application of nutrients.
- 3 Months Prior to Planting** – Review the job sheet to determine how much seed is required to plant to meet specifications. Receive guidance from NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on the variety. Locate dealers who will provide the varieties and make any necessary arrangements. The seeding rate will be on a Pure Live Seed basis. Coated seed will require more bulk seed to meet Pure Live Seed rates. Request technical guidance from NRCS for any clarification. Legume seed shall be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper strain of rhizobia bacteria. Consult with dealers to know if their seed available will be pre-inoculated or if they supply the appropriate inoculate. The proper inoculate strain for white clover is *Rhizobium trifolii*.
- 1 Month Prior to Planting** – Remove excessive vegetative growth by increasing grazing pressure or clipping the pasture. Graze the forages to have a stubble height of 2 inches in 30 days.
- 1 Week Prior Planting** – Evaluate the existing stubble height of the pasture. Clip the pasture to reduce forage height to 2 inches, if needed.
- Day of Planting** – If the white clover is not pre-inoculated. Inoculate the seed with the appropriate inoculate strain. Follow Cooperative Extension Service’s publication *FSA2035 Forage Legume Inoculation* on proper inoculation techniques.
- Day of Planting** – Calibrate the no-till drill according to Cooperative Extension Services FSA-3111, *Calibrating Drills and Broadcast Planters for Small-Seeded Forages*. **Do not drill the seed too deep.** Do not allow livestock to graze this area until the forage is well established.
- Day after Planting** – Notify the local NRCS field office to let them know that the seed has been planted. Make sure the NRCS field office has copies of soil test results, fertilizer/lime receipts, seed receipts, seed tags, and any other relevant documentation.
- 1 Week after Planting** – Evaluate the existing forage height and any emergence of white clover seedlings. Graze the grass canopy to allow sunlight interception by the white clover seedlings. Remove livestock when the sunlight is able to reach white clover seedlings. Keep livestock removed until the white clover seedlings are established enough for grazing. Rotationally graze the legumes for plant longevity and nutrient management.

## Broadcast Seeding

- 9-12 Months prior to Planting** – Obtain soil samples from the designated field(s). Deliver soil samples to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for processing. Request crop code 116 “Legumes Over-seeded into Grass Sod.”
- 6 Months prior to Planting** – Review soil test results. Apply lime according to soil test recommendations. Make preparations to apply nutrients according to soil test recommendations. Nutrients and soil amendments will be applied according to soil test recommendations. Contact the local NRCS office if you have questions about the application of nutrients.
- 3 Months Prior to Planting** – Review the job sheet to determine how much seed is required to plant to meet specifications. Receive guidance from NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on the variety. Locate dealers who will provide the varieties and make any necessary arrangements. The seeding rate will be on a Pure Live Seed basis. Coated seed will require more bulk seed to meet Pure Live Seed rates. Request technical guidance from NRCS for any clarification. Legume seed shall be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper strain of rhizobia bacteria. Consult with dealers to know if their seed available will be pre-inoculated or if they supply the appropriate inoculate. The appropriate inoculate strain for white clover is *Rhizobium trifolii*.
- 2-3 Months Prior to Planting** – Remove excessive vegetative growth by increasing grazing pressure on the pasture or by clipping. Graze the forages to have a stubble height of 2-3 inches in 60-90 days. Depending on the site, this step may not be necessary.
- 1 Week Prior Planting** – Evaluate the existing stubble height of the pasture. Clip the pasture to reduce forage height to 2 inches, if needed. Depending on the site, this step may not be necessary.
- 1 Week to the Day of Planting** – "Roughin" up the short sod by pulling a harrow, tire drag or even a cedar tree across the field to improve seed to soil contact.
- Day of Planting** – If the white clover is not pre-inoculated, inoculate the seed with the appropriate inoculate strain. Follow Cooperative Extension Service’s publication *FSA2035 Forage Legume Inoculation* on proper inoculation techniques.
- Day of Planting** – Calibrate the broadcast seeder according to Cooperative Extension Services FSA-3111, *Calibrating Drills and Broadcast Planters for Small-Seeded Forages*. Broadcast the recommended rate of seed on the prepared area.
- Day after Planting** – Notify the local NRCS field office to let them know that the seed has been planted. Make sure the NRCS field office has copies of soil test results, fertilizer/lime receipts, seed receipts, seed tags, and any other relevant documentation.
- 1 Week after Planting** – Evaluate the existing forage height and any emergence of white clover seedlings. Graze the grass canopy to allow sunlight interception by the white clover seedlings. Remove livestock when the sunlight is able to reach white clover seedlings. Keep livestock removed until the white clover seedlings are established enough for grazing. Rotationally graze the legumes for plant longevity and nutrient management.