



Photo from TAES Overton web site

SUBTERRANEAN CLOVER

DESCRIPTION - Subterranean clover is a winter annual legume with slender creeping stems 2 to 4 feet long. It is called subclover because some of the seed heads turn downward and push into the soil upon ripening. However, many of the seed heads remain above ground and may be harvested for seed. It has clusters of white to purplish-white flowers.

VARIETIES - Karridale, Denmark, Clare, Nuba

ADAPTATION - Karridale and Denmark are adapted to loamy to clayey soils with pH 6.0-7.3 and fair drainage. Early to late maturity, medium bloat potential, fair cold tolerance. Clare and Nuba are adapted to loamy to clayey soils with pH 7.0-8.0 and fair drainage. Medium maturity, medium bloat potential, poor cold tolerance.

PLANTING DATE - September 15 to November 30. (October preferred)

PLANTING RATE - 16 lbs. PLS per acre.

PLANTING DEPTH - ¼ TO ½ inch deep.

SEEDBED PREPARATIONS - Drill into short sod (2 in.) or straight disk, broadcast seed and roll. Where more land preparation is needed for land leveling, etc., the seedbed should be firmed by rolling before and after planting, or use a cultipacker to plant seed.

FERTILIZER AND LIME - Lime and fertilizer should be applied as recommended by a recent soil test.

MANAGEMENT

- ❖ Remove livestock from April 1 to May 15 to permit subterranean clover to make a good seed crop.
- ❖ About October 15, mow or graze grass in pasture to approximately 2 inches in height. Apply recommended fertilizer and lime and straight disk, harrow or use any implement to barely scratch the soil surface to increase light reaching emerging clover plants so that they can become established.
- ❖ Bees greatly increase seed production.

HERBICIDES AND HERBICIDE RESIDUE PROBLEMS - Some pasture herbicides applied in the spring can prevent clover/medic establishment in the fall. **Residue problem herbicides** are Grazon P+D, Amber, and Ally. Known safe herbicides are 2, 4-D and Weedmaster. **All "broadleaf" pasture herbicides will kill or severely damage most clovers/medics if sprayed during active growth.** Use "safe" herbicides after medic/clover seed set to control problem weeds. May have to use higher rates because of the delayed application date. A good medic/clover stand will reduce weed potential by direct competition with winter/spring weeds.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.