



360 Forage

soil health + plant health + animal health



RED CLOVER

Trifolium resupinatum

Purpose & Fit

Red clover is a high-production forage utilized for grazing, cut-and-carry systems, hay, and silage. Good seedling vigor, its complementary nature with other mix components and rotations, pollinator attractant qualities, ease of establishment, and high yields make it an especially attractive addition to forage systems.

Growth Pattern

A short-lived perennial (2 – 4 years), red clover will form between a 24 – 36 inch taproot with secondary roots that reach up to 12 inches deep. Dense lateral roots occur in the upper 5 inches of the soil profile. Above ground, the plants can grow between 2 – 3 feet tall.

Climate & Soil

Red clover will grow in most locations and most soil types but will require precipitation or irrigation of between 25 – 40 inches per year. Cold hardiness, low light requirements, and compatibility with multiple species enable red clover to fit into many production environments. Red clover can replace alfalfa in too wet or acidic areas and will tolerate some soil salinity.

Planting

Best sowing occurs utilizing a cultipacker seeder. If planting a mixed stand, plant grasses in late summer/early fall and add red clover the following late winter or early spring. Seeding clover with grass in the spring will favor the legume over the grass. Late summer seeding can be successful, but there is a risk of drought and crown-rot injury.

Grazing

Utilize rotational instead of continuous grazing to lengthen the stand's life and keep animals from preferentially grazing the clover. Maintaining the clover in the vegetative stage will encourage tillering.

Quick Data

Seeds/LB:
270,000 - 275,000

Optimum Growth Range:
40°F - 70°F

Seeding Depth:
0.25" Depth

Min Time To Emergence:
7 days

Planting Rate (Monoculture):
10 Lb/A - 15 Lb/A

Tons of Dry Matter an Acre:
3 - 5

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