

Annual and Biennial Clovers

Crimson Clover

Crimson clover is an annual whose winter survivability depends greatly on weather conditions. With snow cover or when planted with winter cereals, crimson will often be protected enough to survive to spring. It will not generally survive low winter temperatures with no snow cover.

Use crimson clover as a fall planted or summer interseeded crop where you want to fix nitrogen, scavenge nutrients, and suppress weeds with the option of forage use.

Seeding Rate

Alone	15-20 lbs/acre
In a Blend	5-10 lbs/acre

Seeding Depth

Plant no deeper than 1/2"

Balansa Clover

Balansa clover is an annual that can be used as a cover crop or forage. It is the most winter hardy of the annual clovers. Its growth begins as a multi-branched rosette which makes it apt to recover after harvest and grazing. Balansa has leaves all along the stems that form from the rosette which add to its yield and forage quality. This clover is cold tolerant and can withstand early frosts in the fall, but will winterkill is likely Iowa and north.

Use Balansa clover as a nitrogen fixing cover crop in spring or late summer planted blends where high quality forage is a goal.

Seeding Rate

Alone	5-8 lbs/acre
In a Blend	3-5 lbs/acre

Seeding Depth

Plant no deeper than 1/2"

Berseem Clover

Berseem clover can be planted after any chance of a frost until the beginning of August. This clover is flexible as a forage option as it can be in a grazing blend or you can treat it very similarly to alfalfa. Its taproot makes it productive in the summer and its upright growth makes it possible to be cut, wilted and dry baled.

Use berseem where you want a clover in a summer cover crop or grazing blend. Also, if you have a thinning alfalfa stand, berseem can be used to fill in and contribute to your dry hay production.

Seeding Rate

Alone	15-18 lbs/acre
In a Blend	5-8 lbs/acre

Seeding Depth

Plant no deeper than 1/2"

Yellow Blossom Sweet Clover

Yellow Blossom Sweet Clover is a true biannual as it will quickly form a low growing rosette in the first year then, after overwintering, it will begin its flowering process. As a cover crop, this clover will be a high nitrogen fixer in both seasons of growth, but will need terminated in a timely manner before spring seeded crops. Yellow blossom sweet clover does contain coumarin, which can come off as a bitter taste to cattle, so it would not be our first choice as a forage option.

Use yellow blossom sweet clover as a late summer or fall planted green manure cover crop where forage use it not a goal.

Seeding Rate

Alone	7-8 lbs/acre
In a Blend	3-5 lbs/acre

Seeding Depth

Plant no deeper than 1/2"

