

Crimson Clover

Trifolium incarnatum



Season type: Winter legume

Uses

Compaction reduction	F	Attract beneficials	VG
Residue persistence	G	Nitrogen scavenger	G
Erosion control	VG	P & K scavenger	G
Weed control	VG	Forage quality	E
Nematode control	F		

E=Excellent; VG=Very Good; G=Good; F=Fair; P=Poor/None

Seeding rate: 15 to 18 lb/acre drilled; 22-30 lb/acre broadcast

Planting date: August to September

Inoculant: Clover-type

Production

Residue: 3,500 to 5,500 lb/acre

Nitrogen: up to 150 lb N/acre

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Photo courtesy of Dr. E. van Santen, Auburn University

Surface residue

When planted early, crimson clover can accumulate up to 5,500 pounds of residue per acre.

Crimson clover establishes earlier than hairy vetch in the fall, so suppresses weeds better.

Insects

Crimson clover provides a habitat for insect predators such as pirate bugs and lady beetles. It also attracts aphids. Honey bees are attracted to the nectar for honey production.

Nitrogen fixation

A legume, crimson clover can fix up to 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Some cultivars, including AU Robin, are preferred for wildlife food plots.

Crimson clover mixes well with small grains and other clovers

Cultivars

Two popular cultivars in the Southeast are AU Robin and AU Sunrise. AU Sunrise flowers 1 to 2 weeks earlier, making it an excellent choice as a cover crop. Some cultivars re-seed well.



Adapted from *Managing Cover Crop Profitably 3rd Edition*



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