



Cicer Milkvetch

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Varietal Trials Results, January 2006



Cicer milkvetch is a vigorous, persistent, high-yielding perennial legume that spreads by rhizomes. Stands can persist for many years under heavy grazing and, once established, can tolerate stress well. It tolerates drought well and is grown extensively for grazing in the western United States. It is also very winterhardy and resistant to insects and disease, but has poor seedling vigor and may take two years to establish. It also has some unknown anti-quality components that can cause photosensitization and hair loss on some grazing ruminants. When animals become acclimated to grazing the crop,

problems lessen. More evaluation is needed before widespread use of cicer milkvetch is recommended for grazing in Minnesota.

Hi Pal, a variety developed at Minnesota AES, was selected for plant vigor and palatability under grazing.

Varietal evaluations were seeded in pure stands at three locations in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 to evaluate forage yields. All locations were harvested twice each year except Rosemount was harvested three times in 2000.

Dry matter yield, in tons dry matter per acre, of cicer milkvetch varieties seeded at three locations.

Variety	Grand Rapids 1999-2001	Rosemount 1999-2001	Morris 1999-2001
Hi Pal	3.8	4.5	4.9
Lutana	3.5	4.3	4.8
Monarch	3.4	4.3	4.7
Windsor	3.2	4.2	4.4
LSD 5%	0.5	0.2	0.5

Cicer Milkvetch Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds	60
Seeds/Pound	122,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre	
Alone	16
Planting Rate, Seeds/Sq. Ft.	
Alone	50
Planting Date	Early Spring or Summer