



Kura Clover

Nancy Ehlke and Donn Vellekson



Kura clover is a relatively low growing, spreading perennial legume. It is best used as a grazing crop because of its growth habit and

high moisture content. Kura clover can tolerate frequent grazing and has consistently high forage quality, resulting in high animal performance. Kura clover can induce bloat in grazing ruminants and may be best suited for planting in mixtures with cool-season grasses, such as reed canarygrass and orchardgrass.

Kura clover is persistent once established but has poor seedling vigor, slightly less than birdsfoot trefoil. As with other legumes, kura clover requires inoculation with the proper rhizobium to insure atmospheric nitrogen fixation. Because of its excellent persistence and spreading growth habit, kura clover has great potential for soil cover and erosion control in agricultural and nonagricultural areas.

Summary tables include variety trials seeded in 1999, 2002 and 2005 at Rosemount and in 2002 and 2006 at

Grand Rapids. Nitrogen was applied at the rate of 30 pounds per acre at the time of seeding to assist early growth. Trials were harvested three times per year at Rosemount and twice per year at Grand Rapids.

Kura Clover Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds.....	60
Seeds/Pound.....	215,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre	
Alone.....	10
In Mixtures.....	6
Planting Rate, Seeds/Sq. Ft.	
Alone.....	50
In Mixtures.....	30
Planting Date.....	Early Spring or Summer

Dry matter yield, in tons per acre, and vigor of kura clover varieties seeded at 2 locations.

Variety	Vigor** 5/1/2003	Rosemount			Grand Rapids	
		2001-02	2003-05	2006-07	2003-04	2007-08
Cossack	5.0*	4.0	4.0	3.5	1.1	3.6
Endura	3.3	4.3	4.8	3.2	1.2	4.0
NF-93	5.5	4.6	4.7	3.3	0.9	3.3
Rhizo	2.8	4.1	4.0	2.5	0.8	—
LSD@5%	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.4

* Yield adjusted due to alfalfa contamination in seedlot.

** Vigor at Rosemount; 1 = least, 9 = best vigor.