

# CICER MILKVETCH

Cicer milkvetch is a vigorous, persistent high-yielding perennial legume that spreads by rhizomes. Stands can persist for many years under heavy grazing and can tolerate stress well once established. 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.

Cicer milkvetch has poor seedling vigor and may take two years to adequately establish. It also has some unknown anti-quality components that can cause photosensitization and hair loss on some grazing ruminants. More evaluation is needed before widespread use of cicer milkvetch is recommended for grazing.

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

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

	Grand Rapids	Rosemount	Morris
Varitey	1999-2000	1999-2000	1999-2000
Hi Pal	4.0	4.4	2.5
Lutana	3.6	4.3	2.4
Monarch	3.5	4.4	2.4
Windsor	3.6	4.3	2.2
LSD 5%	0.4	NS	NS

***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