

# 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, 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 cicer milkvetch, 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. It will be on the market when adequate seedstocks are obtained. 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	Rosemount	Morris
	1999-2001	1999-2001	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