RED CLOVER

Red clover can be seeded in pure stands or with timothy for hay or silage. It is more easily established in pasture renovation than either alfalfa or trefoil.

Historically, the winterhardy varieties of red clover have not persisted beyond two crop years in Minnesota because they are susceptible to diseases. However, most of the improved varieties currently sold for use in Minnesota can persist for three years if the weather provides good winter snow cover.

Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station scientists established performance trials of red clover at two locations in 1995. These trials were harvested at Morris in 1996 and 1997 and at Rosemount 1997 and 1998. A trial established at Grand Rapids in 1998 was harvested in 1999 and 2000. Two more locations were established in 1999 and harvested two or three times in 2000.

Varietal differences for forage yield were generally not great. The one exception is Astred, which does not seem to presist in Minnesota. Some of the newer varieties tended to produce higher forage yields during the third production year.

Dry matter yield of red clover, tons dry matter per acre, seeded at three locations in 1995.

	Grand Rapids		Rosemount		Morris		
Variety	1999-2000	2000	1997-1998	2000	1996	1997	1998
Arlington	3.2	4.0	4.1	5.2	3.2	2.0	2.9
Astred	–	–	2.8	–	2.5	1.8	2.7
Cinnamon	–	–	4.5	–	3.4	2.1	3.0
Freedom	–	4.4	–	5.5	–	–	–
Juliette	–	4.7	–	5.6	–	–	–
Marathon	3.6	4.6	4.0	5.6	3.4	1.7	2.6
Prima	3.7	5.1	–	5.3	–	–	–
Randolph	3.8	–	4.1	–	3.8	2.0	2.8
Redland III	–	–	–	–	3.3	1.9	2.8
Redstar	–	4.8	–	5.9	–	–	–
Scarlett	3.8	–	4.2	–	3.7	1.8	2.8
LSD 5%	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	NS	0.3	NS

Red Clover Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds 60
Seeds/Pound.....272,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre
Alone 9
In Mixtures.....5
Planting Rate, Seeds Sq.Ft.
Alone 50
In Mixtures.....30
Planting Date
Alone .....Early Spring to September 1
In Mixture .....Use Date for Legume