

# RED CLOVER

Red clover can be seeded in pure stands or with grasses for grazing, hay or silage. It is more easily established in pasture renovation than either alfalfa or birds-foot trefoil.

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

Experimental varietal trial plots were established at Grand Rapids in 1998 and 1999, at Morris in 1996 and 1997, and at Rosemount in 1996, 1999 and 2002.

Harvest frequency is generally three times per year. The 2002 yield data from Rosemount was a single fall harvest of a spring-seeded trial. Varietal differences

for forage yield in these trials were not great, except for the variety Astred, which does not persist in Minnesota.

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

Variety	Grand Rapids		Rosemount			Morris		
	1999-01	2000-01	1997-98	2000	2002	1996	1997	1998
Arlington	2.9	3.0	4.1	5.2	1.7	3.2	2.0	2.9
Astred	-	-	2.8	-	-	2.5	1.8	2.7
Cinnamon	-	-	4.5	-	-	3.4	2.1	3.0
Cinnamon Plus	-	-	-	-	1.7	-	-	-
Freedom	-	3.2	-	5.5	1.8	-	-	-
Juliette	-	3.3	-	5.6	1.7	-	-	-
Marathon	3.4	3.2	4.0	5.6	1.9	3.4	1.7	2.6
Prima	3.4	3.5	-	5.3	-	-	-	-
Randolph	3.5	-	4.1	-	-	3.8	2.0	2.8
Redland III	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	1.9	2.8
Redland Graze II	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-
Redstar	-	3.4	-	5.9	-	-	-	-
Scarlett	3.4	-	4.2	-	1.7	3.7	1.8	2.8
LSD 5%	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.2	NS	0.3	NS

*“Timothy, red clover, red top grass, Alsike clover and Kentucky bluegrass are now our most useful kinds for meadows and pastures. Corn and the millets are not nearly as well appreciated by our farmers as they should be. Temporary pastures and meadows to stand for a few to several years succeed in all parts of the state, and the first four named grasses and clovers are best.”*

**—Willet M. Hays, in the Division of Agriculture Report in Biennial Report of the Minnesota State Agricultural Experiment Station for the Biennial Period Ending December 1890**

## **Red Clover Planting Rate and Date**

Bushel Weight, Pounds .....	65
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 Mixtures.....	Use Date for Legume