

Balansa clover grows very slowly in the winter and is not competitive with winter weeds in the South. It grows very rapidly in mid-spring. The very small seed is sensitive to seeding depth and may do better when broadcast than when drilled. It is reported to germinate within three days, which can be a problem in sandy soils that dry out quickly. It may be suitable for cotton production. Reseeding potential exists in cotton production based on grower experience.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
FixatioN	Available, high biomass, and high nitrogen. Tolerates wet conditions. Blooms about two weeks later than 'Dixie' crimson clover. Better at reseeding. Should be terminated in May.	Dabney et al., Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Frontier	Earlier maturing variety than FixatioN but less biomass production in northern MS.	MS Plant Materials Center data
Viper, Taipan	Early maturity in trials at Clemson.	Rupert - personal communication

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	¼	Dabney et al.
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	5 uncoated or 7 coated Use <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum biovar trifolii</i> inoculant.	Dabney et al., Green Cover Seed
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	6 uncoated or 7 coated Broadcasting is preferred to drilling due to very small seed size.	Grassland Oregon
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

Termination Information

Information	Source
<p>Clover can be terminated by herbicides, mowing or tillage. Herbicides - legumes take longer to kill with herbicides than grains. Plan on 2 ½ to 3 weeks for clover to fully die. Rolling/crimping kill at bloom – The hollow stems allow balansa clover to be killed with roller/crimpers if a height of at least 14 inches has been achieved. Clover may be terminated by mowing after early bud stage. Cotton –Similar to crimson clover, research indicates to ensure the best cotton stand, wait at least 10 days after clover termination before planting. Use with caution if there is high nematode pressure in your field. Balansa clover 'Paradana' was not as good a host for root knot nematode as 'Dixie' crimson clover. 'FixatioN' balansa clover is not a host for soybean cyst nematode.</p> <p>Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.</p>	<p>Culpepper - personal communication, Green Cover Seed, MS Plant Materials Center data, Timper et al. 2006</p>

Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	3,000 - 4,000	Dabney et al.
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	60	Dabney et al.
Life Cycle	Cool season annual legume	
Growth Habit	Prostrate	
Preferred Soil pH	6.0 - 7.0	Tolerates pH from 4.5 - 9.0.
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	Night temp > 50°	Smith Seed Company
Cautions	Not competitive with winter weeds in the South. Balansa grows slowly until warmer weather, then very rapidly. Probably not suitable before corn. Balansa performs best in wet soils.	Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data, Unpublished Literature Review in Coastal Plain - Gaskin

Sources:

Dabney, S.M., D.W. Reeves, K.C. McGregor, J.L. Douglas, N.W. Buehring, and J.R. Johnson. Balansa clover: A reseeding legume cover crop for no-till systems: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/64080530/Projects/balansa.pdf>

Grassland Oregon: <http://www.grasslandoregon.com/balansa-clover.html>

Green Cover Seed: <https://www.greencoverseed.com/product/1088/>

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center Annual Reports: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2_022076

Managing Cover Crops Profitably: <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books>

Smith Seed Company: <https://www.smithseed.com/seed/legumes/balansa-clover/balansa-clover>