

Clovers are good choice for putting nitrogen into the soil during the winter. The species in this genus generally have strong root systems that can fight soil compaction. Many make excellent forages for dual use applications. Many provide excellent pollinator habitats in the spring months. It is important to pay attention to possible broadleaf residual herbicide activity (e.g. 2,4-D) as these chemicals can set back clover establishment.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
White Clover	Adapted to very moist soils. Perennial that behaves like a reseeding annual in the south	Texas A&M AgriLife Personal communications
Ball clover	Adapted to very moist soils. Good choice for high pH soils	
Red clover	Most well-adapted to clay soils. Weak perennial with 2-3 yr stands that acts like an annual in the south.	
Arrowleaf (Apache)	High reseeding potential with high spring production.	
Berseem	Adapted to loams and clay loams, but lacks cold tolerance.	

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	1/2"	Texas A&M
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	4 (White) 3 (Ball) 6 (Red) 8 (Arrowleaf) 12 (Berseem)	Use <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum biovar trifolii</i> inoculant Personal Communication
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	8 (White) 6 (Ball) 15 (Red) 10 (Arrowleaf) 16 (Berseem)	Broadcast is often the most reliable way to seed with this crop.
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

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Termination Information

Information	Source
<p>Terminate in spring 3 weeks before planting by herbicide (glyphosate, 2,4-D, Dicamba, or Atrazine)*, by mowing, grazing, or by plowing directly in using a sweep to ensure all roots are cut.</p> <p>Mowing allows for additional N fixation. However, seedbed preparation may not be optimized this way</p> <p>Many clovers can harbor insects that affect the following crop. For this reason, and for the purpose of ensuring good seed bed preparation, complete kill may be preferred, and soil insect scouting advised.</p> <p>*Always follow herbicide labels for crop to be terminated and for compatibility with subsequent crop(s). Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations.</p>	Texas A&M Agrilife

Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	2,000-4,000	Texas A&M Agrilife
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	100-200	N is not immediately available after termination
Life Cycle	Low growing (annual, or perennial with annual-like behavior)	
Growth Habit	Seed in fall terminate or graze into spring	
Preferred Soil pH	6.0-9.0	
Relative Costs	\$\$\$	More costly per pound than many covers, but fewer lbs/acre needed
Min. Germination Temp	60°F	
Cautions	Prepare soil 6 months ahead of seeding to ensure residual broadleaf herbicide activity is minimized.	

Sources:

Texas A&M Agrilife:

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/library/ranching/cool-season-forage-legume-management-guide/>

<http://counties.agrilife.org/gonzales/files/2011/04/2017-Legume-Forage-Variety-Trial.pdf>

Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.