

Medics perform similarly to annual clovers in the Blacklands. They can deliver high amounts of nitrogen and put down strong root systems that fight soil compaction. Medics can grow with less water than clovers, however, and still provide a quality forage for dual purpose systems. In fact Medics often perform well where clovers fail due to low water supply.

### Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Barrel Medic	One of the taller medics, and therefore higher a biomass producer	Texas A&M AgriLife SARE
Burr Medic	Burrs more cold harder than other Medics	
Black Medic	Hard seeded, develop best reseeding potential in 3 <sup>rd</sup> year	
Strand Medic	Performed well in southern Blackland research trials	

### Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	1/4-1/2"	SARE
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	2-6 Use <i>Mesorhizobium ciceri</i> inoculant	NRCS
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	8-20	
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

### Termination Information

Information	Source
Grazing, mowing, tillage, or herbicide (e.g. glyphosate or atrazine)	SARE
<p>Much easier to control with tillage or mowing than clovers without seed bed preparation issues.</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>	

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	2,000-4,000 upper limits of 9,000 reported	Texas A&M AgriLife SARE
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	50-200	
Life Cycle		
Growth Habit	Upright (resembles alfalfa) with many prostrate stems	
Preferred Soil pH	6.0-8.0	
Relative Costs	\$\$\$	
Min. Germination Temp	60°F	
Cautions		

Sources:

Texas A&M AgriLife:

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

Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.

NRCS Technical Note: TX-PM-15-01. Legume Seed Inoculation.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/etpmctn12525.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/etpmctn12525.pdf)

SARE

<https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition/Text-Version/Legume-Cover-Crops/Medics>