

Annual white sweetclover is well adapted to the Blackland and prairie soils throughout central Texas. This plant is known to be a significant pollinator species attractor. Sweetclover has been used as a forage and soil improvement crop for many years. However, a compound called dicoumarol is produced in hays and spoiled silages produced from this plant that diminished interest in its use in recent decades. The problem has never been noted with grazing. Sweetclover has a high potential to reduce compaction due to unusually strong rooting systems, and new cultivars developed by Texas A&M AgriLife Research have minimized concerns over dicoumarol production. This cover crop is useful in integrated grazing/row crop production systems.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Silver River	Rust resistant cultivar (released in 2016), with low dicoumarol toxicity for hay use	Texas A&M AgriLife
Hubam	Single stem variety	
Emerald	Multi-stem variety	

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	1/4-1/2"	
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	8-12	Use <i>Sinorhizobium meliloti</i> inoculant NRCS
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	10-15	
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

Termination Information

Information	Source
<p>Cutting, or rolling and crimping may not be sufficient with single stem varieties to ensure seedbed preparation and planting equipment.</p> <p>Plowing in, shredding, or herbicide* are recommended.</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)	2,000-6,000+	Depends on stage of maturity at termination
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	80-150	
Life Cycle	Annual warm season legume	
Growth Habit	Upright 1-4' tall	Some varieties have a single stem trait that is 'woody' and branched Some varieties exhibit a smaller multi stem trait.
Preferred Soil pH	6.5-8.5	
Relative Costs	\$\$	Seed availability will increase
Min. Germination Temp	60°F	
Cautions		

Sources:

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

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/etpmctn12525.pdf

Texas A&M AgriLife:

Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.