



Dutch White Clover

Trifolium repens

White clover is a slow growing, nitrogen-fixing perennial. Once established, it provides long-term cover, either alone or with a turf grass such as LoGro. It is often used in high-traffic areas to minimize soil compaction and improve soil health. White clover tolerates wet conditions.



<i>Land preparation</i>	Use conventional tillage; maintain a firm seedbed.
<i>Seeding rate</i>	Drill 5-9 lb/ac or Broadcast 7-14 lb/ac. ¹ After seeding, roll the ground to improve seed-to-soil contact, but do not crush soil aggregates.
<i>Seeding date</i>	Fall: August 15-September 10, alone or with annual grass cover. Spring: As early as possible, may be frost seeded like medium red clover.
<i>Seed sources</i>	American Seed Co., Seedway. Specify Dutch white clover, which is a low-growing type used for cover crops. Avoid other white clovers.
<i>Maintenance</i>	Used in high-traffic areas, including permanent walkways; sometimes mixed with turf grass. Mow close to the ground to prevent the plants from making seed and for appearance.
<i>Control</i>	White clover propagates by seed or creeping stolons which root at the nodes. ² Uproot and incorporate to control. White clover is difficult to control with herbicides; glyphosate at 1 lb/ac will suppress but not kill it. To eliminate white clover when it is used as a turf (and adjacent vegetables are out of the field), consult turf herbicide recommendations.
<i>Tips</i>	Tolerates shade and can be used as a companion crop with alfalfa or perennial ryegrass. Frost seed into winter cover crop in the spring. Very tolerant of wet growing conditions. Wait two years before planting a vegetable legume, because white clover is a host for root rot diseases such as Pythium and Rhizoctonia. ³

References:

¹Clark, A. 2007. Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd ed., Sustainable Agriculture Network. p.180.

²www.SAREP.ucdavis.edu

³Carol MacNeil, CCE, personal communication

Disclaimer

This fact sheet reflects the current (and past) authors' best effort to interpret a complex body of scientific research, and to translate this into practical management options. Following the guidance provided in this fact sheet does not assure compliance with any applicable law, rule, regulation, or standard, or the achievement of particular discharge levels from agricultural land.

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For more information



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