

# Red Clover

*Trifolium pratense*



Red clover leaves are large and nearly always have a prominent V-shaped pattern, or watermark, on the leaflets. Red clover has very hairy, fleshy stems and dark, pink flowers. Red clover plants form crowns around a taproot and grow erect.

## Description

Cool-season, perennial legume with hairy stems. Stands last two to three years. Erect, leafy plant that grows 2 to 3 feet tall. Leaves are large and often have prominent V-shaped watermark.

## Uses

Hay, pasture, haylage.

## Advantages

Widely adapted, good seedling vigor, complements tall fescue and other cool-season grasses. Established easily, high yields.

## Disadvantages

Shorter stand life than alfalfa and white clover. Heavy first cuttings are difficult to cure. Hay is dusty. Overmature second cutting red clover hay may have a fungus that causes animals to slobber.

## Seeding

Rate: 8-12 lb/a

Depth: ¼-½ in

Primary Date: Feb 1-Apr 15

Secondary Date: Aug 1-Sep 15

## Harvest

First harvest: May 1-May 15

Annual yield: 2-5 tons dry matter/a

