

# Sweetclover

*Melilotus* spp.



## Description

Upright, coarse-stemmed, biennial, cool-season taprooted legume. Grows 4 to 8 feet tall. Leaves have serrations completely around the edge.

## Uses

Primarily cover crop for wildlife.

## Advantages

Nitrogen fixation, drought tolerant, winter-hardy.

## Disadvantages

Intolerant of soil acidity. Contains coumarin, which reduces palatability and causes hemorrhaging in livestock.

## Seeding

Rate: 10-15 lb/a

Depth: ¼-½ in

Date: Feb 1-Apr 15

## Harvest

First harvest: Not applicable

Annual yield: 1-3 tons dry matter/a



Sweetclover leaflets are thicker than those of alfalfa and have serrations, or indentions, around the border. The petiole, or stem, of the middle leaflet of sweetclover is much longer than those of the other two leaflets. Sweetclover grows taller than alfalfa and can have either yellow or white flowers.