



CRIMSON CLOVER

Producers may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do they know the benefits of each species? Each month a different cover crop species will be highlighted to provide producers with information needed to successfully grow cover crops or alternative forages on their operation.

AT A GLANCE

- Shade tolerant, promoting growth while limiting competition
- Can be interseeded with corn or soybeans
- Taller flower stems, grows more quickly, and has larger seeds than red clover
- Also useful as a forage when blended into a mix along with a grass

PLANTING DETAILS

- Plant between May and September at 1/4" depth, 10-15 pounds per acre
- When interseeded with corn, plant from V4 - V8 for optimal growth
- With soybeans, it should be planted at leaf drop
- Add to a forage mix including a grass for best forage

ABOUT CRIMSON CLOVER

- Warm season legume that originated in southeastern Europe, now popular worldwide
- Excellent for interseeding into corn; as corn matures, it shades the crimson clover ensuring they do not compete
- Makes a great forage but not for hay; high moisture content makes dry hay a struggle
- Yields vary greatly based on growing conditions but are significantly less than red clover

BENEFITS

Weed Control & Rapid Growth

Due to its rapid growth during cool weather, crimson clover can create decreased weed pressure, particularly during spring and fall.

Nitrogen Credit

Used as a cover crop, Crimson clover can qualify for a nitrogen credit.

Increased Organic Matter

Crimson Clover increases organic matter in the soil, improving overall soil health.



CENTRA SOTA COOPERATIVE

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**MORRISON SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
<https://morrisonswcd.org/>