

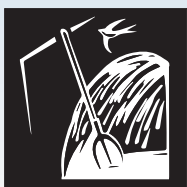
# BASIC EARTH WORKING WITH NATURE

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



### FERTILITY IMPROVEMENT

As a winter-active cover crop, Crimson Clover can contribute 70-150 pounds of nitrogen per acre. In northern climates, planted in late summer, it provides 50-60 pounds of nitrogen per acre.



### FORAGE ENHANCEMENT

As a winter annual, Crimson Clover can produce 3,500-5,000 pounds of dry matter per acre. As a summer annual in northern regions, a late summer planting of Crimson Clover can provide 1,500-2,000 pounds of dry matter by late November.



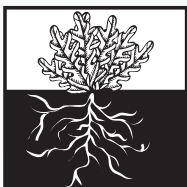
### BENEFICIAL INSECTARY

Crimson Clover produces beautiful deep red blossoms that are 1/2-1 inch long. They are prolific nectar producers and attract many types of bees. The blooms may contain tiny pirate bugs, an important and beneficial insect that preys on small insects, especially thrips.



### EROSION CONTROL

Quick to establish, Crimson Clover decreases soil erosion and surface water pollution.

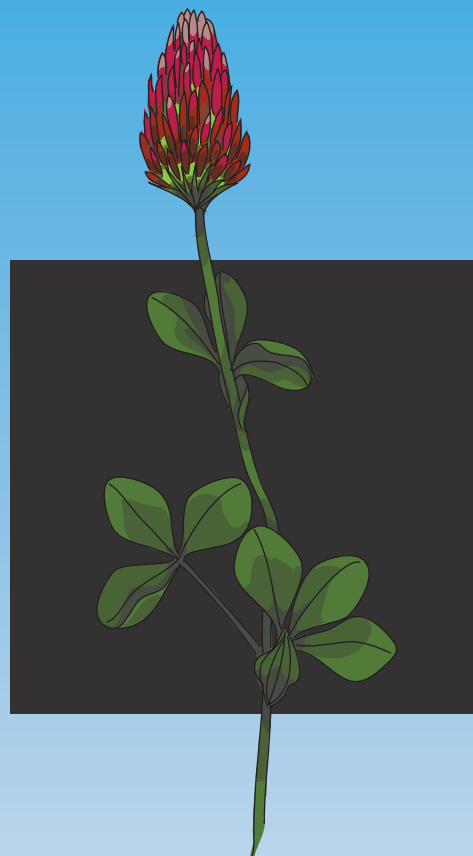


### SOIL BUILDING

Crimson Clover increases soil organic matter with a thick growth of organic mulch, increasing the water holding capacity of the soil.

## CRIMSON CLOVER

*Trifolium incarnatum*



Crimson Clover provides early spring nitrogen for full season crops in Southern regions. Rapid summer or fall growth in cool season areas make it ideal for weed suppression and green manure purposes. Crimson Clover is widely used in the South for roadside cover or as a re-seeding annual clover in pastures and hay ground. It is gaining popularity as a versatile summer annual cover crop in Northern regions.

Crimson Clover has taller flower stems, grows more quickly and has larger seeds than the more commonly used red clover. Crimson Clover's primary advantages are rapid growth during cool weather, shade tolerance and good reseeding potential. Thus, Crimson Clover can be planted early in spring or fall for weed control, overseeded in corn at second cultivation or in soybeans at leaf drop. Because of its shade tolerance and reseeding potential, Crimson Clover is also effective as a living cover in orchards (1).



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(1)SARE- Managing Cover Crops Profitably

## USES

As a summer annual, plant as soon as all danger of frost has passed. It can be planted with small grains such as oats or rye or with annual ryegrass for excellent annual forage production. As fall cover crop, seed in late summer or as early in the fall as possible following the harvest of cash crops such as corn, soybeans, corn silage, or wheat. As with spring plantings, it can be accompanied by small grains or cool-season grasses to provide green manure, erosion control, and nutrient recycling. In northern regions, Crimson Clover provides a winterkilled mulch (2).

For use as a winter annual, plant 6-8 weeks before the average first frost date. Reseeding cultivars provide natural fertility to corn or cotton. Crimson Clover works especially well before grain sorghum, which is planted later than corn.

Crimson Clover's higher than average shade tolerance means that seedlings can survive in corn when planted at the V4 to V8 corn leaf stage. Until the corn canopy opens later in the season, the clover is establishing a root system. This means that there is little above-ground clover growth, so there is no significant competition with the growing corn plant. Clover growth following corn harvest can be rapid, and in a warm, moist year beautiful red flowers may develop prior to first freeze (3).

When following soybeans, Crimson Clover should be seeded by air or with a highboy at the beginning of leaf drop. Crimson Clover is an excellent nitrogen contributor for the following crop.

(2)Michael A. Cavigelli, Todd E Martin and Dale R. Mutch

(3)W.K. Kellogg Biological Station Extension, Michigan State University

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

### SEEDING RATE:

### MONOCULTURE

15-18 lbs/acre drilled  
25-30 lbs/acre broadcast

### IN MIXES

10-12 lbs/acre drilled  
15-20 lbs/acre broadcast

### INOCULANT:

Rhizobium True Clover Inoculant

### IDEAL SOIL:

Prefers well-drained soils within a pH range of 4.8 - 8.3, 6.5 being ideal. Can tolerate low-fertility soils.

## MIXES WELL WITH: OATS, CEREAL RYE, ANNUAL RYEGRASS, AND RADISHES



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