



WHITE CLOVER - the benefits

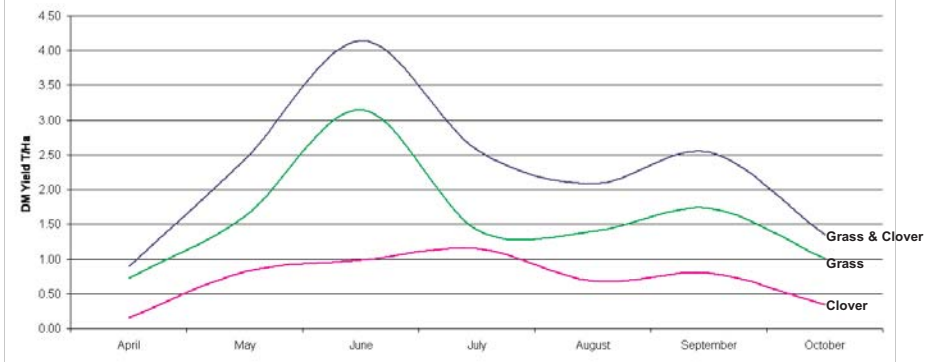
The addition of white clover to any grass sward brings nutritional benefits to both livestock and the companion grasses.

The benefits for livestock include enhancement of sward digestibility, improved mineral uptake, higher protein levels and in many cases, improved palatability.

Most livestock classes benefit from the inclusion of white clover in their diet; both lambs and beef cattle fatten faster and milk yield and quality usually improves.

The fact that white clover grows more rapidly during the mid summer slow down in grass growth means animals have more even forage available during the grazing season.

Mean of 3 NIAB RL Sites - 2nd Harvest Year - 2007



SAVE MONEY ON FERTILISER!

Another very good reason for sowing white clover is for its' ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen. Conservative estimates that clover fixes the equivalent of 200 kilos N/ha gives a financial benefit of £157.00 per ha at the current cost of nitrogen of £270.00 per tonne.

Even if you only sow 5 ha with white clover this will reduce your annual fertiliser bill by more than £750, which even after deducting establishment costs is a saving of over £3,750 over 5 years.

SOWING WHITE CLOVER

White clover is commonly included in grass seed mixtures at the time of sowing, but with the demise of many " clover-safe" herbicides the clover plants are often lost when emergent weeds are sprayed. Consequently there is a demand to sow the clover separately in to the sward after broad leaved weeds have been controlled.

METHODS OF SOWING

Whatever method is chosen it is important to remember that the clover seed needs to be in contact with soil that is sufficiently moist and warm to ensure establishment. A soil pH of 6 - 6.5 is also required.

Sowing with Spring Tine Harrows

Spring tine harrows with seed boxes are widely available and this method delivers the seed by broadcasting on to a previously opened sward, providing some cover from the following tines.

This method is not suitable if the sward is too dense or badly infested with prostrate grasses such as Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*).

Slot Seeding

A precise method of sowing clover seed in to an existing sward resulting in the establishment of plants in slotted rows from which the clover will rapidly spread. Subsequent harrowing or rolling will often aid successful establishment.

Timing

Clover is best sown in to warm, moist soils but it is best to avoid the periods when the grass is growing rapidly as the grasses may out compete the clover seedlings. After 2nd cut silage, or during mid to late August is probably ideal, but other opportunities may occur.



THE PRODUCT

Pelleted **Cloverplus**® is a unique blend of five of the highest performing clover varieties available, covering the spectrum of leaf sizes from small through medium to large. This blend will adapt to most management systems and is suitable for cattle and sheep. All varieties appear on both the SAC and BSPB/NIAB HVG recommended lists.

Cloverplus® is packed in handy 5 kilo packs which will sow one hectare (2 kilos per acre) and is **HEADSTART**® treated.

PELLETED CLOVER

Whichever method is selected to sow white clover rapid germination will help it compete in the existing sward.

HEADSTART® is a revolutionary seed treatment widely used for football pitch renovation for its ability to speed up germination.

HEADSTART® also helps the seedling overcome the symptoms of stress induced by drought, cold temperatures or shade.

A combination of seaweed enzymes, natural bio-nutrients and trace elements combined with an osmotic attracter (to assist the attraction and absorption of water) enables **HEADSTART**® to deliver improved plant establishment.



Untreated seed



Treated seed

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