# OHIO COVER CROP FACT SHEET

#### Legumes

# **Berseem Clover** AS A COVER CROP IN OHIO

This fact sheet summarizes information specific to Ohio that is available from the Midwest Cover Crops Council. For more information, see the *Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide, Third Edition,* and the Cover Crop Selector Tool found at: **midwestcovercrops.org/selector-tool**/



# Trifolium alexandrinum

# **Identification Information**

- Narrow leaflets
- Hollow stems
- Cream-colored flowers
- Short taproot

## **Cultural Traits**

- Summer annual
- Minimum germination temperature: 42°F
- Reliable establishment window (state average): June 10–Aug. 16
- Upright growth habit: 16-20 inches
- Preferred soil pH: 6.2-7.0

| Heat tolerance:                              | Very good     |
|--|---------------|
| Drought tolerance:                           | Good          |
| Winter survival:                             | Winter-killed |
| Some varieties are r<br>than others but will |               |

Individuals participating in financial assistance programs are required to follow NRCS Appendix A regarding seeding rates and dates. Failure to do so will jeopardize payments. Appendix A can be found in Ohio's Field Office Technical Guide, Section 4, Ecological Sciences Tools: <u>https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/OH/documents/section=4&folder=-6</u>

## **Planting Information**

- Drilled ¼-½ inch
  - 8–15 lbs./acre (pure live seed)
- Broadcast with shallow incorporation
  - 9–17 lbs./acre (pure live seed)
- Broadcast without incorporation
  10–18 lbs./acre (pure live seed)

### Additional planting information:

- 206,880 seeds/lb.
- Inoculation type: berseem, crimson
- When planting on slopes or using for forage/grazing, increase seeding rate.
- Broadcasting without incorporation is usually less dependable than drilling or broadcasting with incorporation.
- When interseeding, time seeding to match appropriate crop growth/maturity.

## Performance

- Dry matter = 1,200–3,000 lbs./acre per year
  - Biomass quantity is highly dependent on planting/termination dates and precipitation.
- Total nitrogen = 70–150 lbs. N/acre (not fertilizer replacement)
  - Nitrogen release can vary considerably depending on stand density and growth, soil temperature, and moisture after clover has been destroyed.



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#### **Termination Information**

- Tillage
  - If terminating with only tillage, multiple passes are often required.
- Chemical
- Winterkill

#### Performance (continued)

| Nitrogen source:           | Good      |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Soil builder:              | Very good |
| Erosion fighter:           | Very good |
| Weed fighter:              | Very good |
| Grazing:                   | Excellent |
| Lasting residue:           | Good      |
| Mechanical forage harvest: | Excellent |

### **Potential Advantages**

#### SOIL IMPACTS

| Subsoiler:          | Good      |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Frees P and K:      | Good      |
| Compaction fighter: | Very good |
| Chokes weeds:       | Good      |

#### OTHER

| Attracts beneficials: Very goo |
|--------------------------------|
|--------------------------------|

Additional termination information:

• Follow NRCS guidelines for cover crop termination dates for crop insurance compliance.

#### **Potential Disadvantages**

Delayed emergence: Could be a minor problem

**Increased weed potential:** Occasionally a minor problem

Increased insects/nematodes: Could be a minor problem

Increased crop diseases: Occasionally a minor problem

**Establishment challenges:** Occasionally a minor problem

## Contributors

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(Note: This publication was adapted with consent from MCCC with content from the Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide, Third Edition, and Cover Crop Selector Tool: midwestcovercrops.org/selector-tool/.)

The Midwest Cover Crops Council (www.midwestcovercrops.org) aims to facilitate widespread adoption of cover crops throughout the Midwest by providing educational/outreach resources and programs, conducting new research, and communicating about cover crops to the public.

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