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 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.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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

Rachel Cochran, Ohio State University Extension; Sarah Noggle, Ohio State University Extension

(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.

Funding for this project was provided by McKnight Foundation.

MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

December 2022

OHIO COVER CROP FACT SHEET The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age,

disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ©2022 by MCCC. All rights reserved.