

Alsike Clover

Cultivated in Sweden as early as 1750 and introduced into North America about 1834. Varieties of Alsike Clover grown in Canada are either of a diploid or tetraploid type. The common type grown is diploid. Tetraploids with double the number of chromosomes are taller, have larger leaves and flowers and are later maturing than the diploids. In some areas, the forage yields of tetraploids are higher than of diploids.

DESCRIPTION

Alsike Clover is a short lived perennial but it is often used as a biennial. Tillers grow profusely from the crown with stems at least as long as those of red clover but more slender and prostrate. Stems and leaves are smooth. The pink or white flower heads are somewhat smaller than red clover heads. The stem bears flowers along its entire length. Root system penetrates deeply into the subsoil. The roots have many branches but are non-creeping. Root pieces that survive frost heaving can produce new plants.

ADAPTATION

This cool season crop is adapted to low-lying moist areas. It will tolerate soils that are completely waterlogged and withstands spring flooding up to six weeks. It is also well suited to acidic organic soils and heavy moist alkaline soils. Alsike clover will tolerate more alkalinity than most other clovers. Has excellent winter hardiness.

USE FOR HAY

Like red clover, it is high in moisture content and, therefore, difficult to cure in the field. It produces good yields in mixtures with grasses such as timothy.

USE FOR PASTURE

Regrowth after hay cutting is quite good and is similar to that of single cut red clover. Very palatable to cattle. Bloat hazard is similar to that of red clover or alfalfa.

SEEDING RATE

Seeding at 10-15 lbs per acre is recommended. One lb is approximately 680,000 seeds.

GERMINATION

Seeds normally germinate within 5-7 days under optimal conditions

Please note: Alsike clover can be toxic to horses under some conditions. Please inquire for more information.