

Red clover

Introduction

Red clover is a tap rooted legume with high feed value. It has good summer growth and drought tolerance, but little winter growth. It performs best on free draining soils under moderate stocking rates, long summer grazing rotations or hay production. Under high stocking rates or fast grazing rotations its persistence is reduced.

Red clover is commonly sown as a component of a permanent pasture, to boost summer growth and feed quality.

Red clovers contain phyto-oestrogens so care should be taken if feeding to breeding stock during mating. (This mainly applies in the late summer and autumn periods when red clover is growing well). Phyto-oestrogen levels vary between red clover varieties.

Variety descriptions

Tuscan

Tuscan was bred for persistence, good summer growth and improved grazing tolerance. It provides a source of excellent quality feed over summer and autumn, and is suited to all farm types. Contains moderate-high phyto-oestrogen levels. (Refer also to the *Tuscan* sheet on page 28).

Grasslands Colenso

An early flowering diploid variety with improved cool season production. More prostrate than *Pawera* giving better tolerance of hard grazing. Contains moderate phyto-oestrogen levels.

Grasslands Pawera (T)

A late flowering, erect, tetraploid variety best suited to rotational grazing. Has superior summer-autumn growth but little winter growth. Contains phyto-oestrogens.

Grasslands Sensation

Early flowering upright variety bred for persistence under grazing. Contains moderate phyto-oestrogens.

Grasslands Turoa

Old, late flowering, diploid variety first certified in 1937, traditionally known as "Montgomery Red". Contains phyto-oestrogens.

Rajah

European red clover with an intermediate to late flowering date that can be sown alone or as part of a seed mix.

G27

Reselected from *Pawera* for higher yield and smaller leaf size.

(T): Tetraploid varieties are usually sown at higher sowing rates because they have larger seeds.