

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 perennial pasture in summer dry areas, 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 cultivars.

Cultivar 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.

Ceres Colenso

An early flowering diploid cultivar 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 cultivar best suited to rotational grazing. Has superior summer-autumn growth but little winter growth. Contains high phyto-oestrogen levels.

Grasslands Sensation

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

Grasslands Turoa

Old, late flowering, diploid cultivar first certified in 1937, traditionally known as "Montgomery Red". Contains high phyto-oestrogen levels.

Rajah

European red clover with an intermediate to late flowering date giving good flexibility in spring.

Grasslands G27 (T)

Reselected from *Pawera* for higher yield and smaller leaf size and lower phyto-oestrogen levels.

SF Rossi

Red clover bred for persistence and disease tolerance.

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