



Ladino White Clover

Trifolium Repens

Stand Establishment and Forage Production

Ladino clover is a large form of white clover. It is a shallow-rooted clover ideally suited for use on shallow, hard pan soils. Its growing season is as long as other legumes, but goes dormant in the winter.

Soil Requirement: Heavy clay, clay loam with a pH between six (6) and seven (7). Ladino clover is a shallow-rooted plant (cultivar) and is also ideally suited for use on shallow, hardpan soils.

Seed Bed Preparation: Disking, harrowing, ringrolling or cultipacking are generally sufficient to provide a fine, firm seedbed.

Planting Dates: (Northern Hemisphere) Fall: August through October or Spring: February 15 to March 15. (Southern Hemisphere) Fall: February through March or Spring: August through October. Mid-winter planting is avoided because of freezing temperatures. The clover germinates and grows very slowly and is a poor competitor with winter weeds. Make sure enough time is given for good growth before freezing temperatures occur.

Seeding Rates: 2 – 4 lbs. of Ladino clover per acre, drilled in or broadcast. Because the seed is so small, it is not necessary to cover the seed with soil. After the seed is sown, wait for a rain or irrigate. After germination, frequent irrigation may be necessary until sufficient rainfall occurs to keep the crop alive. The seed should be inoculated with the proper nitrogen-fixing bacteria (Rhizobia).

Fertilizer Requirements: For optimum production, 60 to 80 lbs. of phosphate/acre, 100 to 150 lbs. of potassium/ acre and 100lbs. of sulfur. These elements should be applied and worked into the soil during seedbed preparation.

Water Requirements: 3 to 4 acre-feet of water per growing season. The clover can be irrigated in strip checks or by sprinkler. Strip checks are on ground that is leveled to grade, that is 0.2 to 0.3 fall per 100 feet. How wide the checks are, will depend on how much side fall there is. The ground does not have to be leveled where sprinklers are used. Every field should have good drainage so that water is not allowed to stay very long after irrigation is completed. This creates a weed problem and poor clover growth.

Inoculation: Although Ladino clover will grow in slightly to medium acid soils, higher yields, longer lived stands inoculated with the proper nitrogen fixing bacteria (Rhizobia) are obtained if the pH is from 6 – 7. The symbiotic relationship of the nitrogen-fixing bacteria and the clover is most effective at a pH near 6.5 soil.

Bloat Control: Properly managed pastures and livestock seldom result in bloat problems. Some producers feed livestock with dry stemmy hay prior to allowing them to graze. Bloat usually occurs when cattle or sheep graze green succulent clover in the pre-bloom stage of growth. Gases, which are the natural by-products of digestion, accumulate in the rumen. If enough accumulates, the animal becomes visibly distressed and may die unless treated. Limiting initial grazing time on the pasture has been successful in minimizing the incidence of bloat.

Grazing Management: Managing livestock on irrigated pasture is relatively simple once a few concepts are understood. There are essentially two grazing management styles.

- 1.) Continuous grazing where livestock have full run of the pasture and can select what they want to eat.
- 2.) Rotational grazing where the pasture is subdivided into paddocks and rotating livestock into fresh feed, allowing empty paddocks the opportunity to rest. Rotational grazing decreases the ability of the livestock to graze selectively and results in more uniform utilization of the pasture.



P.O. Box 1428, Woodland, California 95776 USA
Phone: 530-666-3331 FAX: 530-666-5317
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