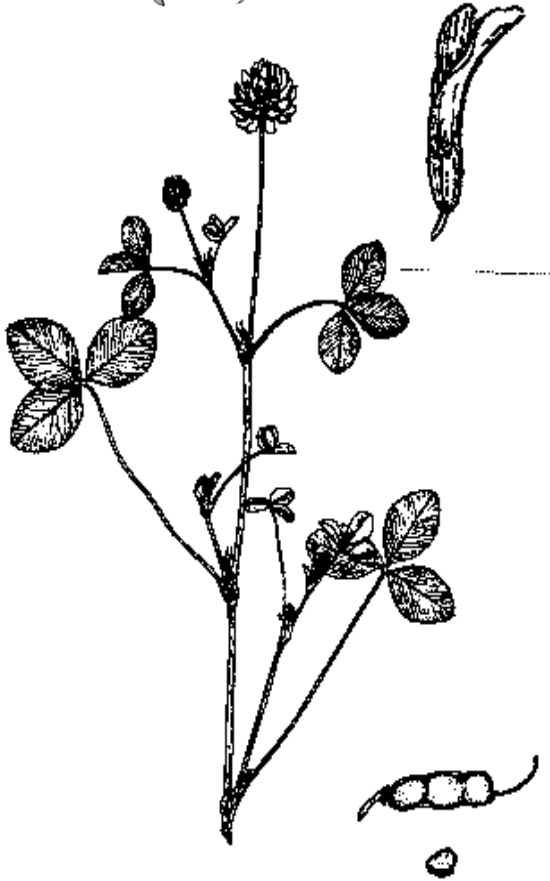


# ALSIKE CLOVER

*Trifolium hybridum*



## ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from Europe. Short-lived, perennial or biennial herbaceous legume. Trifoliate leaves with tillering roots and smooth prostrate to ascending stems. Flowering inflorescence that bear pink and white blossoms in dense, globose shaped head. Nitrogen fixing legume.

## GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to medium to heavy clay soils and tolerant of acid to alkaline soils on wet sites. Naturally escapes in wet sites (road borrow pits and along drainages) suggesting utility. Shorter lived and provides less cover and soil binding

than white clover in most situations. Starts growth in early to mid spring or later in higher elevations and altitudes. Flowers in May to July or all summer long in cooler, moister areas.

## CULTURE

Drill or broadcast seed. Cover 1/4 – 1/2" deep in a firm well-prepared seedbed. If mixed with grass, drill in alternate rows if feasible. Drill 6 to 8 lbs. PLS per acre. Seed with grass mixture in humid areas or under irrigation. Use about 4 to 6 lbs. PLS per acre in grass mixtures on dryland western sites. Plant in spring or late fall in cooler climates. Late summer seedings are satisfactory in warm temperate and southern climates with adequate moisture or irrigation. Inoculate seed before planting. Protect from overgrazing and weeds in first year. Fertilize based on soil test deficiencies, especially phosphates.

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Important forage for hay, pasture, and useful for stabilizing disturbed and eroding land, including roadsides and mine spoils. Best used with timothy, meadow foxtail and red clover in wet meadows or under irrigation. Good palatability for livestock, especially in summer. Seeds are consumed by a variety of birds. May occasionally cause bloat in ruminants. Contains estrogen that can cause animal reproductive problems.

Should graze or defoliate grasses moderately close during rapid grass growth stages to allow clover to compete.

## IMPROVED VARIETIES

Consult with plant materials specialists for material adapted to your area.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

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