

Alsike Clover

Alsike clover is adapted to cool, moist acidic soils and can tolerate more flooding than other clovers. Flower heads are pink or white and smaller than those of red clover. Blooms continue throughout the season, making it suitable for hay over an extended window. Excellent winter-hardiness, intolerant of drought and extreme heat. Alsike clover has a branched root system that penetrates deep into the subsoil. Good regrowth after cutting. Less shade tolerant than other clovers.

Tillers are prolific, but more slender and prostrate than those of red clover. Stems are hairless.

Alsike works well in a mixture with timothy or brome grass. Grass helps support clover in a more upright growth habit, but be careful with very tall grasses, as alsike is not shade tolerant. Close grazing (2 inches) favors clover, while lighter grazing favors grass. Usually only yields one hay cutting per season.

Note: Alsike Clover is toxic to horses. If present in a horse pasture, it should make up no more than 5 percent of the stand.

At A Glance:

Key Features:

- ◇ Establishes easily
- ◇ Very tolerant of cold and frost-heaving
- ◇ Intolerant of drought
- ◇ Does well in low-lying, moist soils
- ◇ Does well on soils that are too acidic for red clover, although it is slightly lower yielding.
- ◇ Higher moisture content than other legumes– less optimal for hay.
- ◇ Flowers are especially attractive to pollinators.
- ◇ Good Nitrogen Fixer, year round soil cover, and weed suppressor.
- ◇ Works well with frost seeding, as well as an interseeded cover crop, broadcasted, or drilled.
- ◇ More moisture tolerant than other clovers.

Establishment:

Seeding rate: 6-8lbs/Acre

Depth: 1/4inch

Fine, firm seedbed recommended



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Forage Tech Sheet