

# Forage Factsheet – Alsike Clover

Species Name: Alsike Clover - *Trifolium hybridum*

Origin: Sweden

Longevity: 1-5 years (grows mainly as a biennial in Saskatchewan). Alsike clover will reseed itself.

Uses: Hay, reclamation, pasture

Optimal time of use: Hay alsike clover once per year during full bloom. May cause bloat and photosensitization in livestock. Alsike clover provides good early fall grazing after the first killing frost.

Recovery after use: Alsike clover regrows well after haying or grazing. For fall pasture, utilize regrowth after killing frost.

Yield: Alsike clover yields approximately 3100 lbs/acre (3522 kg/ha) in the Black and Grey soil zones.

Palatability/Nutritional Value: Alsike clover is palatable to livestock. In the vegetative state, crude protein is approximately 22% and digestibility is 65%. It may cause bloat and photosensitization if grazed during the growing season.

Competitiveness: Alsike clover is competitive once established.

Winter Hardiness: Alsike clover has good winter hardiness.

Drought Tolerance: Alsike clover does not tolerate drought.

Erosion Control: Alsike clover has limited use for erosion control. Alsike clover can be used as a plow down crop (green manure) to add organic matter to the soil.

Ease of Establishment: Alsike clover establishes readily, but does not compete well with cover crops.

Suggested Mixtures: Timothy or reed canary grass for hay production, or as a component of a pasture or reclamation mix on acidic or poor quality soils.

Salinity Tolerance: Alsike clover is not recommended for saline areas.

Flooding Tolerance: Alsike clover can withstand at least five weeks of spring flooding and waterlogged soils.

Soil Texture: Alsike clover is suited to cool, wet, and slightly acidic loamy to clay soils. Alsike clover is adapted to the Black and Grey soil zones.

Acidity Tolerance: Alsike clover tolerates soil pH as low as 6.0.

Management Considerations: Fertilize according to soil test results. In acidic soils, root nodulation and nitrogen fixation can be impaired. Condition the crop when cutting for hay to speed drying.