

# Alsike Clover



**Plant type:** Perennial Legume

**Planting dates:** Jan–April or Aug–Sept

**Soil pH:** 6.0–6.5

**Soil adaption:** Poorly drained, med. fertility

**Planting depth:** 1/8"–1/4"

**Approximate seeds/lb:** 728,000

**Seeding rate:** 6–8 lbs/A  
1–2 lbs/A mix

**Days to germination:** 7–10

**Main usage:** Hay, pasture

**Height at maturity:** 12"–36"

**Length of stand:** 2–3 years

**Reproduces by:** Seed

**Pounds per bushel:** 60

**Precautions:** Bloat potential, photo sensitivity,  
not for horses, slow drying for hay



Adapted to the same general area as red clover. Alsike clover makes a very palatable, high-quality hay when planted with other clovers and grasses, especially timothy. Alsike produces high-quality pasture and hay. It prefers a heavy, moist soil and will do better than other clovers on poorly drained acid soils. Alsike clover does not do well in light, sandy soils.



## Common Alsike Clover

- Adapted to similar areas as red clover
- Grows on wide range of heavier soils
- Can tolerate standing water for 7-14 days
- Deep branched taproot
- Great winterhardiness



**CAUTION:** Alsike clover has a tendency to cause bloat and should be fed to livestock with care. On pasture high in alsike clover content, take steps to introduce animals gradually to the forage to reduce bloat potential. It has also been implicated as causing "alsike clover poisoning" in horses. Alsike-induced photo-sensitization has been reported among animals grazing alsike clover. This will occur in bright, sunny weather and causes a reddening of the skin and swelling of the affected areas in horses.