GA-9908
medium red clover

VARIETY SUMMARY

GA-9908 is a southern adapted, medium red clover specifically bred for improved grazing performance. GA-9908 is a multi-year red clover capable of better persistence and good hay yields. It is highly resistant to Southern Anthracnose. GA-9908 is a valuable forage for hay, grazing, cover cropping and wildlife. As with all red clovers, it possesses deep roots to help build soil and provide extended drought survivability and is capable of fixing nitrogen; all useful traits for crop rotations and mixed grass pastures.

BETTER GRAZING PERSISTENCE

Developed by Dr. Joe Bouton at University of Georgia, GA-9908 was selected from 'Redland III' through multiple cycles of intensive grazing. GA-9908 was then tested for grazing survival at three Georgia locations. Plots were seeded in the fall, as pure stands (Tifton) or into tall fescue swards (Eatonton and Calhoun). As shown in the photos, GA-9908 was found to provide improved grazing survival and yield compared to other widely used varieties (actual data available on request).

VERY GOOD DISEASE RESISTANCE

In independent testing, GA-9908 has shown to be highly resistant to Southern Anthracnose (Colltrotrichum spp.), and resistant to Northern Anthracnose (Auereobasidium caulivor).

HIGH FORAGE YIELDS

Trial results in the southern and northern US indicate that GA-9908 is able to supply high forage yields for multiple years, if adequate growing conditions exist. In both a 2-year University of Tennessee trial (shown in table) and a 4-year University of Wisconsin trial, GA-9908 had forage yields equivalent to other widely used varieties.

Tennessee Forage Yields 2009-11 DM/A	Greeneville 2-year Total DM/A	Knoxville 2-year total DM/A
GA-9908	**8.62***	**6.14***
Freedom!	8.67*	6.06*
Freedom!MR	8.45*	6.22*
Cinnamon Plus	8.10*	6.25*
LS 9703	8.15*	5.86*
lsd	1.03	0.91

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PLANTING INFORMATION

Before you plant

GA-9908 performs best in soils with a pH of 5.8-7.0, but can also tolerate moderately acid soils (pH 5.0-5.5). GA-9908 will perform best on loamy, well-drained, fertile soil, but can also survive in poorly drained soil. For optimal performance, conduct a soil test and follow the recommended lime and fertilizer recommendations. In established pastures, remove excess forage through grazing or late season haying. This will help ensure successful seedling emergence and establishment. Reduce weed population prior to planting. Be aware of herbicide carryover/residual of chemicals applications prior to planting.

When to plant

All cool-season clovers, including GA-9908, need time to establish before harsh weather arrives. In the lower Southern USA, the best time to plant is late fall. In the upper South, plant mid-late fall or early spring. In the North, plant early fall or early spring. Frost seeding also works well. If planting during other times, reseeding may be necessary to achieve an optimal stand.

Seeding rate

- Planting as a pure stand on prepared seedbed: 6-8 lbs. seed/acre drilled; or 12-15 lbs. seed/acre broadcast and cultipacked.
- Planting as mixture with grasses on prepared seedbed: drill companion grasses in one direction and then drill clover perpendicular to grass rows at 4-6 lbs seed/acre.
- Planting into established grass pastures: 6-8 lbs. seed/acre drilled.

Depth/Method

Plant at 1/8-1/4"depth. Planting too deep may lead to poor establishment or stand failure. Cultipacking or dragging before and after seeding helps create a firm seedbed on prepared land.

Fertilizing

At time of seeding, apply lime, potassium and phosphorus per soil test recommendation. No nitrogen is necessary.

Inoculation

GA-9908 is ready to plant! GA-9908 red clover is Nitro-Coated® with a high level of the leguminosarum biovar trifolii rhizobium.

Management of GA-9908

Once established and properly managed, GA-9908 should provide multiple years of free nitrogen and protein-rich hay and grazing. Longevity will depend on location and management. In hotter regions, with predominately warm-season species, it should last at least 1-2 years, while in cooler climates it should live 3-5 years, or longer. One can also broadcast 3-5 lbs./acre of seed annually, or as needed, to insure a continuous stand. Researchers recommend 25-30% clover percentages in grass pastures for best animal grazing results.