Neches White Clover

EARLY AND PROFUSE FLOWERING, LARGE-LEAF WHITE CLOVER

Neches is a variety developed by Texas A&M for its ability to survive the harsher conditions of the southern US. A newer white clover variety, it has higher yields and earlier flowering than any other variety adapted specifically to the southeastern US. Earlier flowering allows bloom and productivity to peak before the onset of hot, dry summers. It can therefore be a better reseeder for regrowth in warm season pastures than many later-maturing varieties. It has been recorded at full-bloom in mid-April in Overton, TX (Northeast Texas). Neches is an intermediate white clover that was selected for larger leaves, as well, so both its persistence and forage quality benefit. It does well in wetter, loamy bottomland soils.

Establishment

Neches can be drilled or broadcasted onto a prepared seed bed. It can also be over-seeded into a grass sward. Depth should not exceed 1/8 inch. A soil fertility test is recommended. Graze or cut warm season grasses to about 2 inches before planting Neches into the stand. Liming to a pH of 6.0 – 7.0 and providing sufficient applications of P and K are recommended in order to establish a strong stand.

Nitrogen Fixation

Legumes can only fix nitrogen when the proper Rhizobium bacteria are present in the soil. To ensure optimal nitrogen fixation, Neches has been preinoculated with the appropriate bacteria.

BARENBRUG

Southeast AgriSeeds LLC

257 Pinson Road
Rome, GA 30161
(706) 528-4806

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At A Glance

Key Features

- Intermediate white clover that was selected for larger leaves
- Early flowering, good reseeder in hot, dry areas. In the Southeastern US climate, it is often managed as a reseeding annual.
- High leaf to stem ratio and high forage production potential compared to other white clovers developed for the South
- Works well in wetter soils—not recommended for upland soils
- Good persistence
- Pre-inoculated to promote optimal nitrogen fixation

Establishment

Seeding rate: 4-6 lbs/A

Will provide grazing April—July

Management

Proper management is required to maintain the balance of grass and clover in a pasture. Two tools to control this balance are fertility and pasture height. Nitrogen fertilization promotes grass growth. Initially, a lower pasture height should be maintained to allow sunlight to reach the clover. If the clover begins to dominate the pasture, allowing the pasture height to increase will reduce clover growth. In contrast, if the proportion of clover is low, an increased frequency of harvest will promote clover growth. In regards to bloat, where clover is greater than 1/3 of the stand, be extra careful in managing feed strategies to ensure animal health.

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