

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE
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IMPORTANT STEPS IN GROWING SWEET CLOVER

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1. Sweet clover is destined to play an important part in the agriculture of Texas, as soon as farmers realize its value and learn to grow it successfully.

2. Results at the Experiment Station at Denton, and of demonstrations in various counties, have fully proved the real worth of sweet clover as a grazing and soil-improvement crop.

3. Both the white and the yellow blooming bienial and the white blooming annual (Hubam) sweet clover will grow on every type of soil except loose deep sand provided the soil contains sufficient lime. The yellow blooming annual will do well even on soil with very little lime. The latter is well adapted to South Texas, and the Coast Country, as a winter legume. The only drawback to sweet clover is that it is subject to the cotton root rot disease and will die wherever cotton dies.

4. Sweet clover should always be sown shallow, and on a firm seed bed.

5. Most of the failures with sweet clover can be attributed to either planting the seed too deep, or by planting on a loose seed bed.

6. Sow the sweet clover either broadcast at the rate of from 15 to 20 lbs. of seed per acre, or in 3 ft. rows, in the previous season's cotton, corn or grain sorghum middles, without further preparation of the land, at the rate of from 6 to 8 lbs. of seed per acre.

7. At the Denton Station, the most profitable method is to sow the binnial sweet clover with spring oats, in January or February, whereas in West Texas it is usually easier to get a start by sowing it in rows in the early spring. The annual yellow blooming (*Mellilotus indica*) should be planted in early fall. It goes to seed in the spring.

8. When sown with oats, the grain should be drilled in first and then the clover seed drilled in very shallow or broadcast and harrowed into the soil.

9. For sowing in rows, a 4 hole kafir plate in the planter, may be used by removing the opening sweep or lister point and the covering shovels. The seed may be covered lightly by means of a small sack filled with dirt, or some other weight dragging behind the seed chute.

10. When sown with oats, it is important that the oat crop be mowed 5 to 6 inches above the ground, for grain or hay, so as not to injure or kill the sweet clover. The biennial clover will then furnish grazing during the summer and fall, and also during the following summer at which time it will go to seed.

11. When the clover matures, it may be harvested and threshed for seed. If the seed is allowed to mature, the clover will re-seed itself in the field. For the sake of the land, however, it is better to rotate the crop instead of growing it on the same land, year after year.

12. It has not been found necessary to inoculate the seed or the field in the western part of the state, but in the other sections, it is nearly always better to inoculate the seed with sweet clover culture or to give the field a light application of soil from a sweet clover, alfalfa, or bur clover field and disk or harrow this soil into the land.