



Pennington Forage News

1-800-285-SEED

www.penningtonseed.com

GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL WINTER (FROST) SEEDING OF WHITE CLOVER

There are several ways to get clover established in pastures and food plots, but none more easily and simply done than winter or "frost" seeding. The theory behind frost seeding is that during winter, the soil surface freezes and thaws causing the soil to "honeycomb" or loosen. Broadcasting clover seed over these loose soils in mid to late winter allows for excellent seed-soil contact.

Successful frost seeding of clover involves good planning. A soil sample should be taken from the area to be planted to determine soil nutrient content and pH. Apply fertilizer and lime as recommended by the soil test. The area should be scouted for broadleaf weed pests and an appropriate herbi-

With surface broadcasting of seed, rolling the seeded area with a culti-packer or similar roller device or allowing cows to trample in the seed increases seed-soil contact and improves seedling emergence. Winter seeding can also be done with a no-till drill, but care should be taken to plant the seed no deeper than 1/8 – 1/4 inch deep.

When frost seeding, it is important that spring growth of perennial pasture grasses be kept in check by periodic grazing in order to reduce competition and allow sunlight to reach the young clover seedlings.



During winter, the soil surface freezes and thaws causing the soil to loosen or "honeycomb." Broadcasting white clover over these loosened soils in mid to late winter allows for excellent seed-soil contact.

cide applied. Refer to the label for herbicide residual info and plant-back times for clover. Existing forage should be grazed down close to reduce competition and to better expose the soil surface. Normal seeding rates should be increased approximately 25% when frost seeding. For Durana and Patriot, Pennington forage agronomists recommend broadcasting 4 - 5 lbs. seed per acre when frost or winter seeding.

GUIDE TO FROST SEEDING WHITE CLOVER

- Soil test and apply needed fertilizer and lime
- Scout for weeds and apply appropriate herbicide (check label for herbicide residual and clover plant-back time)
- Graze pasture forage down low
- Plant in late winter (See Planting Date Guide)
Drilled - 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep
Broadcast - trample in or use a roller device to improve seed-soil contact
- Increase seeding rates by 25%
- Control pasture spring forage growth



Planting Date Guide for White Clover*

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Fall Seeding	Oct 1 – Nov 15	Sept 15 –Nov 1	Sept 1 – Oct 15	Aug 1 – Oct 1
Winter Seeding	Nov 15 – Jan 15	Not Recommended	Not Recommended	Not Recommended
Frost Seeding	Not Recommended	Feb 1 – Mar 15	Feb 15 – Mar 15	Mar 1 – Mar 30
Spring Seeding	Not Recommended	Not Recommended	Mar 15 – Apr 1	Mar 15 – May 1

*Planting dates are of a general nature and will vary some within a Zone and from year to year due to local weather conditions. Check with the local University Extension office for specific planting times in your area.

