

Description

‘AU Sunrise’ crimson clover (*Trifolium incarnatum* L.) is a naturalized cool season annual legume. It has an upright habit with pubescent stems. The leaves are tri-foliolate in shape. Vegetation averages up to 20 inches tall at flowering time. It produces cylindrical bloom heads with a deep, red color. This cultivar is an early blooming variety of crimson clover. Several hundred pounds of yellow seed are produced per acre in May – June and can be easily harvested with a conventional combine.



Development and Adaptation

AU Sunrise was developed in cooperation with Auburn University. AU Sunrise is comprised of eleven accessions collected from naturalized stands throughout the Southeastern U.S., and bred for early blooming. AU Sunrise blooms 5 to 18 days earlier than ‘AU Robin’ (earliest blooming crimson

clover line on the market) and 12 to 28 days earlier than ‘Tibbee’ crimson clover.

AU Sunrise is well adapted to fertile upland soils of Alabama and Georgia. It should be adapted to the same sites as ‘Tibbee’, ‘Dixie’, and ‘AuRobin’ crimson clovers.

Establishment and Management

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture. AU Sunrise can be broadcast or drilled. **Planting rate:** For maximum cool season coverage, broadcast 20 pounds of inoculated (inoculate code R) seed per acre or drill 8-15 pounds of inoculated seed per acre. **Planting date:** Suggested planting dates: North Alabama and Georgia plant September 15-November 1. In northern South Carolina, plant September 1 – October 15. In southern Alabama and Georgia, plant October 1-November 15. In southern South Carolina, plant September 15-November 15. In the North Carolina mountains, plant mid August-mid-September. In North Carolina Piedmont, plant September 1- September 30. In North Carolina Coastal Plain, plant September 1- October 15. **Planting depth:** Plant approximately ¼ inch deep. **Soils:** crimson clover is adapted to moderately-well to well drained sites.

Fertilization: Apply enough lime to raise pH to 6.0. Apply fertilizer according to soil test. **Management:** When using AU Sunrise for conservation tillage, systemic herbicides produce a more complete kill than contact herbicides. A complete kill of vegetation improves conditions for planting a summer crop in a conservation tillage system. Consult your local NRCS office and extension agent for conservation tillage assistance.



Conservation Uses

Uses for AU Sunrise include green manure crop, habitat for pollinators, cover crop for conservation tillage, organic farming, and as a forage to improve grazing quality.

Availability

Breeder seed of AU Sunrise crimson clover is being maintained at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center, Americus, Georgia and Auburn University Auburn, Alabama through the Alabama Crop Improvement Association.



For More Information

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center
295 Morris Drive
Americus, Georgia 31719
Phone: 229-924-4499
<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/gapmc/>

OR Contact

Your local USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service Office

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Trifolium incarnatum L.



**Jimmy Carter
Plant Materials Center
Americus, Georgia**