**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-foliate 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 compete kill than contact herbicides. A compete 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

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Revised Jan 2009

‘AU Sunrise’ Crimson Clover

Trifolium incarnatum L.

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center
Americus, Georgia