**Crimson Clover** *(Trifolium incarnatum)* is a quick growing cool-season/winter annual legume cover crop. It is a strong nitrogen fixer and scavenger. Crimson clover has a strong root system that helps reduce compaction and build soil.

**Identifying Features**
- Light green oval-shaped leaves covered with soft hairs.
- Stipules between leaf and stem are easily visible, sometimes fringed with purple.
- Fibrous, slender taproot.

**Cultural Traits**
- Cool-season/winter annual legume
- Minimum germination soil temperature: 42°F
- Cold temperature tolerance: 10°F
- Seeding date: Early August to Late August* (F)**
- Seeding date: Mid April to Mid May* (S)***

**Planting Information**
- **Drill** at ¼ - ½ inch (10 lbs./acre PLS**)
- **Broadcast** (11 lbs./acre PLS)
- **Aerial** (13 lbs./acre PLS)

Additional planting information:
- ~150,000 seeds/lb.
- Increase seeding rate if using for forage/grazing.
- Does not frost-seed well.
- Planting in a mixture can enhance performance as a cover crop.
- When interseeding, time seeding to match appropriate crop growth/maturity.
- If growing for nitrogen production, consider using inoculation.

**C:N (Carbon:Nitrogen) Ratio**
- Crimson Clover 14:1

*Planting information from Midwest Cover Crop Council (midwestcovercrops.org). Refer to local NRCS office recommendations (Iowa Field Office Technical Guide, Section 4, 340 Cover Crop) for seeding dates and rates pertinent to location specific financial assistance program requirements.

**Pure Live Seed**
***F= Fall  S=Spring
Performance

Dry matter = 3,500 - 5,500 lbs./acre per year
(Biomass quantity is dependent on planting and termination dates and precipitation.)

Performance Ratings

» Cash crop interseed (early vegetative) Fair
» Cash crop overseed (late seed fill) Fair
» Grazing quality Good
» Mechanical forage harvest Good
» Nitrogen fixer Very good
» Nitrogen scavenger Fair
» Weed suppression Fair
» Compaction fighter Very good
» Erosion control Fair
» Lasting residue Fair
» Quick grower Good
» Drought tolerance Very good
» Low fertility tolerance Good
» Shade tolerance Fair

Additional Considerations

» May cause bloat when grazed.
» Non-host for sugarbeet cyst nematode and a poor host for soybean cyst nematode.
» Excellent pollinator if allowed to flower in the spring.
» Might winter-kill, depending on weather conditions.
» To produce measurable nitrogen for a cash crop, allow crimson clover to grow until at least mid-May.