

# Crimson Clover



With its rapid, robust growth, Crimson Clover provides early spring nitrogen for full-season crops. Rapid fall growth, or summer growth in cool areas, also makes it a top choice for short-rotation uses such as a weed suppressing green manure. Crimson Clover adds to the soil organic nitrogen (N) pool by scavenging mineralized N and by normal legume N fixation. The scavenging process helps reduce the potential for N leaching into groundwater during winter and spring.

Crimson clover's showy, deep red blossoms produce abundant nectar and are visited frequently by various types of pollinators. The blooms typically contain minute pirate bugs, an important beneficial insect that preys on many small pests, especially thrips. Popular as a roadside cover crop throughout the Southeast, Crimson Clover is now gaining recognition as a versatile summer-annual cover in colder regions.

