

Ladino Clover

Ladino Clovers are best suited for hay and wildlife blends

Ladino clover are the tallest and largest leafed of the white clover family. While some might refer to this species as simply “white clover”, there are actually multiple types of white clovers, botanically divided up into three distinct, true breeding polymorphic forms based mainly on leaf size. These types are:

- Very small leaved, wild type (*T. repens* L. f. *repens* L.); also called weedy type or micro clovers.
- Small-to-medium leaved common type (*T. repens* f. *hollandicum*); also called intermediate or Dutch white.
- Large leaved, ladino type (*T. repens* var. *giganteum*); simple called Ladino.

The weedy wild types are not too commonly sold as seed, although some “micro clover” seeds may be of this type. More familiar to most white clover users are the Dutch white and Ladino types. The key differences between these two have to do with height, stolon density and flower formation. These areas also help determine the best application for each.

Planting	Usage	Tolerance
Zones 2 – 9	Grazing Potential Excellent	Bloat Risk High
Longevity Perennial in zones 2 - 8; Annual in zone 9	Hay Potential Good	Disease Resistance Good
Ease of Establishment Moderate	Use with Wildlife Excellent	Insect/Nematode Risk Good
Seeds/lb 700,000	Use in Orchards Excellent	Cold Tolerance Excellent
Seeding Rate - Straight 2-4 lbs/ac	Use with Row Crops Excellent	Traffic Tolerance Good
Seeding Rate - Mix 2-3 lbs/ac	Use with Other Grasses/Legumes Excellent	Heat Tolerance Fair
Seeding Time Fall (October - November) or late winter to early spring (February - April)	Bees/Beneficial Insects Excellent	Drought Tolerance Fair
Seeding Depth 1/8 - 1/4"	Compaction Control Good	Shade Tolerance Good
Seeding Method Broadcast or drilled (preferred)	Erosion Control Excellent	Dry Soil Tolerance Fair
Method of Killing/Suppression Mowing; grazing; chemical	Weed Suppression Potential Excellent	Wet Soil Tolerance Excellent
Optimal Germination Temperature Night temperatures > 40°F	Green Manure/Cover Crop Use Good	pH Range 5.8 - 7.0
Seedling Emergence/Vigor Fair	Spreading Capability Excellent	Required Fertility (P,K, other nutrients) P, K, Ca, Mg needed; minor especially Mo, B also needed.
Reseeding Potential Excellent	N Contribution Potential Good	
Root Type Taproot (seedling); fibrous (stolon nodes)	DM Potential Good	
	Forage Quality Excellent	
	Harvest Time Frame (late/early/year-round) Year-round	
	Number of Harvest/yr 5 per year	