

STRAWBERRY CLOVER

P a l e s t i n e

Palestine Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*) is a large-leaved, deep-rooted, Perennial Clover that demonstrates a prostrate growth habit. It is adapted to a wide range of soil types. Palestine will provide good spring, summer and autumn production but growth during the winter period is low.

Seedling vigour of plants is low and therefore will require careful management during the establishment period. Once established, Palestine will persist better under heavy grazing pressure than white clover and generally does not suffer significantly from many insects or diseases that can commonly attack other Clovers. While Palestine is generally not as productive as other Clover species it is one of the best Clovers to tolerate waterlogged, saline and alkaline environments, and is an excellent alternative crop for these conditions.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Good spring and summer production**
- ✓ **Deep rooted habit allows for drought tolerance**
- ✓ **Suited to continuous grazing**
- ✓ **Tolerant of waterlogging and alkaline soil**

RAINFALL

Palestine is suited to temperate areas receiving a total annual rainfall greater than 500mm.

SOIL TYPE

Palestine is suited to a wide range of soil types with an ideal pH range of 6.0–8.5 (CaCl_2) but will remain productive in soils down to pH 4.8 (CaCl_2). It is tolerant of moderate soil salinity and can withstand periods of waterlogging. Growers should consider liming (coating or fertiliser applications) if sowing into high acid situations (i.e. $<4.9 \text{ CaCl}_2$). Responses to lime can occur up to pH 6.0 (CaCl_2).

INOCULANT

Apply Group B Rhizobium to the seed prior to sowing. Plant nodulation is extremely important for soils below pH 7.0 (CaCl_2). Inoculation is essential to ensure sufficient nodulation occurs and to maximise nitrogen fixation.

MATURITY

Palestine demonstrates late season maturity flowering well into late spring and summer periods.

REGENERATION

Palestine is a hard-seeded variety which will allow it to build up a strong seed reserve enhancing long-term persistence.

GRAZING

Palestine can withstand heavy continuous grazing once plants have been able to establish and strong runners developed. Care must be taken with new sown pastures so as not to overgraze too early, as plants can be pulled from the ground. It can cause bloat in cattle and increase the incidence of urinary calculi in sheep. During the year of establishment, plants should be allowed to flower and set seed to ensure a good seed bank.



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DISEASE RESISTANCE

Various Clover diseases have been recorded on Palestine from time to time. However, very few have caused any serious economic loss.

PEST RESISTANCE

Palestine is susceptible to Red Legged Earth Mite (*Halotydeus destructor*) and Blue Oat Mite (*Penthaleus major*). Therefore, control is essential at the early seedling stage and appropriate pest management must be implemented as required.

SOWING RATE

When sowing alone to produce a dense stand sow at minimum of 1–2kg/ha under dry land conditions and 2–4kg/ha under irrigation. In pasture mixtures, Palestine should be sown at 0.5–1.5kg/ha.

If sowing Palestine for seed production it is suggested that a rate of 3–5kg/ha is used.

Optimum time for sowing is early autumn after rainfall. Sow at a depth of 1–1.5cm into a moist seedbed, free of broadleaf and grass weeds.

Seedmark Exclusive Varieties

BISERRULA

Mauro

CLOVER

Arrowleaf

Cefalu

Zulu II

Balansa

Bolta

Frontier

Berseem

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Crimson

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Persian

Kyambro

Laser

Lightning

Morbult

Nitro Plus

Subterranean

Antas

Campeda

Denmark

Gosse

Losa

Napier

Rosedale

York

White

Quest

Waverley

FORAGE

Woolly Pod Vetch

Capello

Haymaker

LUCERNE

Aquarius

Genesis

Sirosal

Venus

MEDIC

Barrel

Caliph

Jester

Burr

Scimitar

Hybrid

Toreador

PASTURE GRASS

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Kasbah

Phalaris

Atlas PG

Australian II

Holdfast

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