

SUBTERRANEAN CLOVER

dalkeith

Dalkeith belongs to the *Trifolium subterraneum ssp. subterraneum* family and demonstrates a prostrate to semi-erect growth habit and persists well on various soil types. It has early maturity requiring a minimum growing season of four months. It has a high hard seed level, which, in combination with its early maturity, makes it well suited to low rainfall cropping rotations. Dalkeith is a superior replacement to Daliak and has been well up-taken into the 350 to 600mm rainfall zones. It is susceptible to a range of diseases, however, most of these occur in higher rainfall environments.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Early-season maturity – 97 days to flower**
- ✓ **Good early growth and establishment**
- ✓ **Good hard seed levels**
- ✓ **Demonstrates good persistence**

RAINFALL

Dalkeith is well suited to temperate areas receiving a total annual rainfall greater than 350mm. This makes Dalkeith suited for use in low rainfall and cropping rotations.

SOIL TYPE

Dalkeith is suited to a wide range of light to heavy soils which are moderately well drained with an ideal pH range of 5.0–7.0 (CaCl₂) but will remain productive in soils down to pH 4.5 (CaCl₂). Growers should consider liming (coating or fertiliser applications) if sowing into high acid situations (i.e. <4.9 CaCl₂). Responses to lime can occur up to pH 6.0 (CaCl₂).

INOCULANT

Apply Group C Inoculant to the seed prior to sowing. Plant nodulation is extremely important for soils below pH 7.0 (CaCl₂). Inoculation is essential to ensure sufficient nodulation occurs and to maximise nitrogen fixation.

MATURITY

Dalkeith is an early maturing type, flowering approximately 97 days after sowing. It has been noted that the flowering time of Dalkeith can be more elastic than other Sub-Clovers with flowering times ranging between Daliak and Seaton Park, thus allowing it the ability to adapt to both slightly earlier or later environments.

REGENERATION

Dalkeith has the ability to provide high levels of hard seed (45%). This characteristic allows Dalkeith to build up a strong reserve of seed in the soil over time, thus enhancing persistence and productivity for many years. This, in combination with tolerance to low rainfall, makes it well suited to long term cropping rotations.

GRAZING

Dalkeith will be able to provide good early herbage production in low rainfall zones. Care must be taken with new sown pastures so as not to overgraze too early, as plants can be pulled from the ground. Light grazing during the establishment period will help control weeds and encourage dense prostrate growth. Once established, heavy grazing of Dalkeith up to flowering will improve seed set. When flowering begins, stocking rates should be reduced to optimise seed set.



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DISEASE RESISTANCE

Dalkeith is susceptible to Clover Scorch (*Kabatiella caulivora*), Phytophthora Root Rot (*Phytophthora clandestina*) race 1 and 2, Cercospora Leaf Spot (*Cercospora zebrina*) and to Root Rots caused by Pythium (*Pythium spp.*) and Fusarium (*Fusarium spp.*). Dalkeith is generally grown in dry, low rainfall environments where the disease pressure of Clover Scorch, Phytophthora, Pythium and Fusarium is significantly reduced. The susceptibility of Dalkeith to these diseases is not considered a disadvantage.

PEST RESISTANCE

Dalkeith, as with all Sub-Clovers, is susceptible to Red Legged Earth Mite (*Halotydeus destructor*), Blue-Green Aphid (*Acyrtosiphon kondoi*), Blue Oat Mite (*Penthaleus major*) and Spotted Alfalfa Aphid (*Therioaphis trifolii*). 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 6–10kg/ha under dry land conditions and 10–15kg/ha under irrigation. In pasture mixtures Dalkeith should be sown at 4–10kg/ha.

If sowing Dalkeith under irrigation for seed production it is suggested that a rate of 15–20kg/ha be 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.

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