Place in Rotation

Where Red Clover can be grown it should have a place in the rotation. It is exceptionally well adapted to short rotations because of its biennial nature.

Soil

Red Clover will grow on nearly all soils provided they are fertile. It will give its largest yields, however, on moist clay loam that contains an abundant supply of vegetable matter and lime. In new districts it is found to be better adapted to scrub land than the prairie soil

Preparation of the Seed Bed

If the seed bed is prepared similar to that outlined for alfalfa it will give good results with clover. It should be firm underneath, have a good supply of moisture and be level on top.

Method of Seeding

Where Clover is sown alone it is not advisable to use a nurse crop and it can be sown similar to alfalfa. When sown in a mixture with timothy or other small grass seeds a nurse crop is sometimes used. Where this plan is adopted the seed may be sown with the grass seeder attachment.

Time and Rate of Seeding

The seed should be sown about the time of oat seeding. The amount of seed per acre will vary according to the preparation of the soil and amount of rainfall. Under ordinary conditions from 8 to 10 pounds will be sufficient

Inoculation

On the prairie soils in Manitoba it is always advisable to inoculate either the soil or the seed before sowing Red Clover. Even if the bacteria are present in the soil better and quicker results are obtained by treating. For soil inoculation the same rules may be followed as were previously outlined for alfalfa only the soil must be taken from a Red Clover field. Nitro-culture for treating the seed is also prepared for Red Clover and may be secured from the Bacteriological Department, Manitoba Agricultural College.

Treatment First Year

If no nurse crop is used clipping with a mower is necessary to control the weeds. The clippings should not be raked off but left to form a mulch. Stock and especially horses and sheep should not be allowed to graze on the field in fall as they are liable to injure the young plants.