BASIC EARTH
WORKING WITH NATURE

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

FERTILITY IMPROVEMENT
Balansa Clover can contribute 50-100 pounds of nitrogen per acre. Due to the inherent cold tolerance of GO-BAL10 Balansa Clover, it can overwinter in climates where other annual clovers, like Crimson Clover and other Balansa clover varieties, cannot.

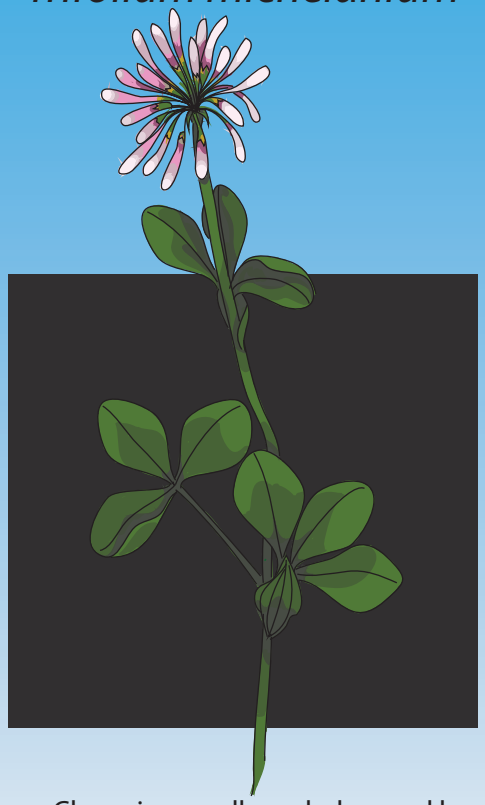
WEED SUPPRESSION
A dense stand of Balansa Clover does a superior job of suppressing spring weed growth by shading the soil and out-competing weeds for water and nutrients.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY
Balansa Clover flowers may vary from white to pink in color, and are highly attractive to bees.

EROSION CONTROL
Balansa Clover increases the water holding capacity of the soil. With Balansa's thick organic growth and impressive root system, erosion and run-off are greatly diminished.

SOIL BUILDING
When seeded in late summer or fall, a stand of Balansa Clover produces large amounts of high-quality biomass, increasing soil organic matter with a thick mat of organic mulch.

BALANSA CLOVER
Trifolium michelanium



Balansa Clover is a small-seeded annual legume with superior reseeding potential compared with other legumes. Balansa is quick to establish, features excellent forage production, and works well in grazing situations. Well-adapted to a wide range of soil types, Balansa performs particularly well on silty clay soil. Established stands tolerate water-logging, moderate salinity, and soil pH from 4.5 to 8.0. Ungrazed, Balansa Clover grows up to three feet tall with thick hollow stems that are palatable and high in feed value. Growth is more prostrate when grazed (1).

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(1) SARE- Managing Cover Crops Profitably

BALANSA CLOVER

Trifolium michelanium

USES

In the Grain Belt states, Balansa Clover works well as a nitrogen producing cover crop planted following soybeans and before corn, wheat, barley, oats, or sorghum. When terminated by chemical means or mechanically using a roller/crimper 2-3 weeks prior to planting, Balansa Clover will provide excellent organic mulch for no-till planting corn or other grains. With a carbon to nitrogen ratio of around 15:1, Balansa Clover decomposes and releases its nitrogen quickly. For this reason, it can be planted along with cereal rye, oats, or other grains to balance the release time of nutrients.

In the Midwest, when planted with cereal rye following corn silage in eary fall, large quantities of high-feed-value hay or silage can be harvested in the spring prior to planting the next season's row crops.

Balansa Clover, with its superior reseeding properties, high hard seed count, and adaptation to a wide variety of soil types, can return for several years from a single seeding. Allowing Balansa Clover to grow for 40 days past first bloom every 3-4 years will allow stands to persist indefinitely in no-till systems. Reseeded stands are denser, bloom 5-7 days earlier, and are more productive than planted stands. Reseeded stands can begin growth during the first favorable conditions; whereas planted stands may miss the earliest opportunity for growth.

MIXES WELL WITH: CEREAL RYE, OATS, WINTER TRITICALE, AND ANNUAL RYEGRASS

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

	MONOCULTURE	IN MIXES
SEEDING RATE:	5 lbs/acre drilled 8 lbs/acre broadcast	3 lbs/acre drilled 5 lbs/acre broadcast
PLANTING DEPTH:	1/4 inch	
INOCULANT:	Balansa Clover requires a relatively rare inoculant called 'Trifolium Special #2'.	
IDEAL SOIL:	Soil pH of 4.5 - 8.0, and tolerates poorly drained soils with moderate salinity.	

GO-BAL-10 VARIETAL BACKGROUND

Confronted with escalating nitrogen prices, Grassland Oregon recognized the need for the development of highly productive annual clovers. Increased interest in the utilization of cover crops in the Midwestern United States led us to believe that there would be a demand for a forage/nitrogen fixing legume that could fill that particular need. In subsequent years Grassland Oregon has evaluated more than 50 species and more than 2,000 individual lines of legumes. Over this time we have developed proprietary techniques to speed up the screening process. This variety features greatly improved cold tolerance over the varieties currently available from Australia and South Africa. GO-BAL-10 has withstood temperatures as low as 5 degrees Fahrenheit with no snow cover and under snow cover it has survived sub-zero temperatures in N. Iowa.

GO-BAL-10 is approximately 14 days later in maturity than Dixie Crimson Clover and as much as 28 days later than other balansa varieties. The later maturity allows for multiple cuttings/grazing. Fully developed plants exhibit excellent re-growth, and recover more rapidly after harvesting than other clovers. Forage yield is quite impressive, yielding as much as 5,250 lbs of extremely digestible dry matter in a single cutting. Individual plants can grow as large as 3 feet high and wide. Crude protein levels range from 22% to 28.4% with relative feed values measured as high as 277.

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