

Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center
Coffeeville, MS
Plant Guide

ARROWLEAF CLOVER (*Trifolium vesiculosum*)

Description: An upright cool-season, reseeding annual legume that grows to a height of 40 to 50 inches under good conditions. Seeds germinate in the fall, but grow slowly during the winter. Leaflets are large, rounded at the base and pointed at the tip. Some leaflets have white, V-shaped markings. Blossoms are arranged in a cluster or head up to 2 inches long. Initially, the blossoms are white to pinkish, turning brown when mature.

Uses: Hay, grazing, seed production, soil improvement, and wildlife. Deer and turkey readily feed on this clover which often persists well into early summer.

Soil adaptation: It is suited to a wide range of soil conditions from well to moderately well-drained and from slightly acid to slightly alkaline. It is not suited to light textured, droughty soil of low fertility or to poorly drained, wet soils.

Varieties: Amclo, Yuchi, Meechee (order of maturity; Yuchi--early, Amclo--intermediate, Meechee--late).

Cultural Specifications

Method of establishment: Seed

Seedbed preparation: Prepare a smooth, clean seedbed. Firm with a cultipacker before and after planting. Cover seed ¼ to ½ inch deep. Arrowleaf clover may also be planted in an established summer perennial grass sod by light disking or with a no-till drill. Interseeding into a grass sod should be delayed until about the first frost date.

Planting time: September 1 - November 15

Planting rate: 10 lb. of inoculated seed per/acre

Fertility requirements: Follow soil test recommendations, if available. If not, apply 300 lb./acre of 0-20-20 or similar analysis at planting time, and annually (August or September) as a maintenance fertilizer.

pH requirement: 6.0-6.5

Companion plants: Summer, perennial grasses and small grains or ryegrass

Management: Start grazing when plants are 5 to 6 inches tall. Maintain a minimum top growth of 3 to 4 inches during growing-season. For commercial seed production, exclude livestock or do not cut for hay after May 1. For reseeding, allow plants to attain a minimum height of 12-15 inches in early July to mature seed. For hay, cut in early bloom stage. When 'Meechee' is grown with summer perennial grasses, graze or cut surplus growth of grass to 2 inches by October 1.

Seed production: Seeds may be harvested by direct combining. Seed yields ranged from 200 to 300 lb./acre.