

Alfalfa

Medicago sativa



Alfalfa is a flowering plant in the pea family Fabaceae cultivated as an important forage crop. It resembles clover with clusters of small purple flowers. It is a cool season perennial legume which can live more than twenty years, depending on variety and climate. The plant grows to a height of up to 1 metre (3 ft), and has a deep root system sometimes stretching more than 15 metres (49 ft). This makes it very resilient, especially to droughts. It has a tetraploid genome. It has the highest feed value of all common hay crops. It is very seldom used as pasture because of the high yield and quality of the hay. It is a cool season perennial legume that has the ability to fix nitrogen from the air into the soil for its use. It can also be used to increase diversity and improve soil quality in CRP seedings. This plant exhibits autotoxicity, which means that it is difficult for alfalfa seed to grow in existing stands of alfalfa. Therefore, it is recommended that alfalfa fields be rotated with other species (for example, corn or wheat) before reseeding.

Seeding Rate: Drilled: 10-15 Lbs. / Ac | Broadcast: 12-18 Lbs. / Ac

Height Range (inches): 12 - 36

Seeds Per Pound: 210,000

Taxonomy

Species: sativa

Genus: Medicago

Family: Fabaceae

Order: Fabales

Subclass: Rosidae

Class: Magnoliopsida

Division: Magnoliophyta

Subkingdom: Tracheobionta

Kingdom: Plantae



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