

Seeding Recommendations for Improving Annual Rangeland



Publication Number CTY-002

Ken Churches and Bill Frost September, 2002

If the intent of seeding is to improve the forage quality and increase forage quantity through the nitrogen fertilization action of legumes, then consider mixtures 1, 2 or 3.

If the intent is to re-vegetate a denuded area, or stabilize a critical area, then consider mixture 3, and even increase the brome or ryegrass component and decrease the amount of clover seeded.

These recommendations should be utilized as a guideline for purchasing rangeland seed mixtures. Individual seed companies will prepare seed mixes they have tailored for our region. Mixes with plant combinations close to these recommendations will do well.

Mixture 1

Plant Species	Seeding Rate
Subterranean Clover	8 pounds per acre
Rose clover	6 pounds per acre
Crimson clover	1 pound per acre

Mixture 2

Plant SpeciesSeeding RateLana vetch15 pounds per acre

Mixture 3

Plant Species	Seeding Rate
Subterranean clover	6 pounds per acre
Rose clover	3 pounds per acre
Crimson clover	1 pound per acre
Blando brome or annual ryegrass	5 pounds per acre

Currently recommended varieties of subterranean clover are Karridale, Junee, Woogenellup, and Trikkala. A combination of 3 to 4 of these (or similar varieties), in roughly equal amounts is recommended to make up the subterranean clover component of these mixes.

Mixes should be planted with 150-200 pounds of a fertilizer containing phosphorus and sulfur, such as triple superphosphate. The intent is to provide about 70 pounds per acre of phosphorus and 35 pounds of sulfur per acre. Use of fertilizer with high amounts of nitrogen is discouraged if annual clovers are included in the seed mix. Nitrogen fertilizer will promote growth of grasses to the detriment of legumes, such as clover.

It is essential that the soil be disturbed, such as with a light disking (no more than 1" deep) prior to seeding. Seed can be broadcast across the area followed by a light dragging or rolling to provide the seed with a small soil covering.

Proper time for planting is around the time of the first fall rains (just prior or just after) (October - November).

The University of California prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran or any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized).

University Policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Dr., 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550 (510) 987-0096.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES DEPT OF AGRICULTURE AND EL DORADO COUNTY COOPERATING