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# AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION of The Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.

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## HOW to ESTABLISH STANDS of CRIMSON CLOVER - SERICEA COMBINATION for GRAZING in the TENNESSEE VALLEY

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The combination of crimson clover and sericea in trials has provided more grazing in the last 2 years than any combination of grasses and legumes at the Tennessee Valley Substation.

In the 2-year period of October 1, 1945, to October 1, 1947, a one and seven-tenths-acre area of crimson clover and sericea provided 691 days of grazing during the 730-day period. The number of animals grazed averaged nearly 3 per acre during the 2 years of the experiment.

Stands of crimson clover and sericea on the same land are fairly easy to establish, and may be done by any one of the following methods:

New Stands. The sericea may be planted either in the early spring or in the summer. In the case of the spring planting, the sericea is seeded any time between March 15 and April 15 on a well prepared seedbed. The crimson clover of the combination is planted around October 15.

A 1,000 pounds per acre of basic slag and 200 pounds of muriate of potash are applied and worked into the seedbed just before planting the sericea. It will not be necessary to apply additional fertilizer when the crimson clover is seeded in the fall.

The seeding rates per acre are 40 pounds of scarified sericea, and 30 pounds of crimson clover. The crimson clover seed should be thoroughly inoculated.

In the case of summer planting, both the sericea and crimson clover are seeded at the same time. The land is turned and fallowed until mid-summer in order to keep down weeds and save moisture. Before planting 1,000 pounds per acre of basic slag and 200 pounds of muriate of potash are broadcast and disked into the soil. The seedbed is then firmed down by harrowing and rolling. On or about July 25, both legumes are seeded at the rate of 40 pounds per acre of scarified sericea seed and 30 of crimson clover seed. The seed are covered immediately, using either a harrow or cultipacker. If crimson clover has never been grown on the area, the clover seed should be thoroughly inoculated before planting. If this method of summer seeding is followed, the crimson clover should furnish good grazing by October 15 or November 1.

When crimson clover and sericea are planted at the same time in late summer, the crimson clover can be grazed soon after the first frost. The sericea will be ready for grazing the following spring. When seeded in the spring, the sericea is not grazed until the following spring. However, if an unusually good stand and growth have been obtained, the sericea might be grazed lightly earlier than the following spring.

Old Stands of Sericea. If you have an old stand of sericea, you can establish a stand of crimson clover in the sericea. This is done between October 15 and 31 by applying 1,000 pounds per acre of basic slag and 200 pounds of muriate of potash, and then by broadcasting 30 pounds per acre of inoculated crimson clover seed. Both the fertilizer and seed are disked into the soil at the same time. However, care must be used to not disk too deeply, as it might injure the sericea stand.

Type of Crimson Clover. It is much safer to use reseeding crimson clover in this combination if available. However, if they cannot be obtained, good results can be expected from the regular commercial strain of crimson clover.

Annual Fertilizer Treatment. Once the stands of sericea and crimson clover are established, the annual fertilizer treatment is 600 pounds per acre of basic slag. This is applied each fall soon after the crimson clover has sprouted.

To grow crimson clover on gray or sandy soils it may be necessary to include in the basic slag application muriate of potash at the rate of 100 pounds per acre.