

# Alsike Clover cv. Hytas

*Trifolium hybridum* L

Suitable for hay or silage



Picture TIA's Extensive Agriculture Centre

- Moderate winter activity– highly active early spring, producing large bulk of high quality feed 5.7t DM/ha.
- Best suited to cool temperate, medium to high rainfall areas (> 600 mm average annual rainfall), capable to withstand flooding for considerable periods.
- Very high frost tolerance (-9 °C ), but poor drought and heat tolerance
- Highly compatible with less competitive perennial grass species
- Requires lax grazing in the early stages of establishment, best suited to rotational grazing or hay production.
- No diseases recorded, resistant to RLEM when established, susceptible to same range of pests as red clover.

# Alsike Clover, cv. Hytas - *Trifolium hybridum* L.

Hytas is a short lived glabrous perennial clover. Hytas grows semi erect with many branching hollow stems from 80 cm to 1 m length. The trifoliolate leaves have no marking with large serrated edged leaflets. Flowers are dense pale pink clusters, globe shaped to 2.5 cm diameter, easily found early November.

Point of difference: Hytas grows well on heavy, poorly-drained soils with a moderate level of winter activity, becoming highly active in early spring through to late summer, producing a large bulk of high protein, high energy forage with high level of digestibility and nutritive value.

Hytas is highly compatible with less competitive perennial grass species. Reduced sowing rate for vigorous grass species (e.g. perennial ryegrass/ brome) will be beneficial (10 kg/ha).

## Establishment

- Range of soil types– incl. wet and acidic, growth response will increase with improved fertility
- Inoculate with Group B Rhizobium,
- Drilled into well cultivated firm seedbed. For direct drilling or broadcasting there should be as little vegetation as possible, best sown at 5 mm.
- Hytas will struggle to establish when broadcasted onto existing pasture.
- 3-5 kg/ha in late summer early autumn, or spring sown in areas with long growing season.
- Hytas sets seed mid January and recruits readily from very small seed (TSW 0.666 gms – white clover 0.636 gms, very low hard seed level (10%)).
- Tolerates “clover safe” herbicides such as MCPB, 2,4-D, benazolin types, but not the lesser selective herbicides.



Hytas flower, TIA

## Feed value/ limitation

High digestibility, declining slowly with maturity.

No oestrogen/toxin problems noted in Australia

Trefoliosis attributed to alsike clover in North America.

Horses, are particularly affected if allowed to graze on alsike when it is wet.

May be some risk of bloat for stock grazing pure stands.

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