

Annual Clover

Annual clovers are commonly used in South Africa and predominantly in the winter rainfall areas. These seasonal species have the ability to produce good quality feed under dry land or semi-irrigated areas where cereals used to be the norm. They are widely adapted to most soil types and being a legumes needs to be inoculated with Rhizobium bacteria. Annual clovers as a pasture can produce benefits in four ways:

- (1) Increased yield
- (2) Improved animal performance

Dalkeith

Subterranean Clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*)

- Early season maturity – 97 days to flowering (AUS)
- Good early root growth and establishment
- Good hard seed levels
- Demonstrates good persistence



- Annual and dependent on seed for the following years growth
- Very drought tolerant
- Shallow rooted so can't utilise deeper soil moisture
- Susceptible to red-legged earth mite and lucerne flea damage
- Poorly tolerant of water logging
- A potential weed in cropping systems
- Highly productive in spring but no summer production
- Not suited for spring sowing

DALKEITH

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Dalkeith belongs to the *Trifolium subterraneum* ssp. *subterraneum* family and demonstrates a prostrate to semierect growth habit. It persists well on various soil types and has early maturity, requiring a minimum growing season of four months. It has a high hard seed level, which in combination with its early maturity, makes it well suited to low rainfall cropping rotations. Dalkeith has taken up well in the 350 to 600mm rainfall zones. It will be able to provide good early herbage production in low rainfall zones. Care must be taken with new sown pastures so as not to overgraze too early, as plants can be pulled from the ground.

Specifications

Sowing rate (pure) 10 - 15 kg/ha

Sowing rate (mixture)

2 - 6 kg/ha

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