Growing Kura Clover Forage in Iowa

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Photo: Mike Collins, The World of Clovers CD-ROM
Kura Clover Facts

Alias: Caucasian clover, Pellett’s clover, Honey clover

Scientific name: *Trifolium ambiguum* Bieb.

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)

Origin: Eurasia

Primary use: Pasture

*Map: Forages, 6th Edition*
Kura Clover Characteristics
Growth Habit - Plastic

Photos: Mike Collins and Ken Moore, Forages CD, 2nd Edition
Kura Clover Characteristics
Leaf Structure

- Trifoliolate
- Prominent veins
- Saw-tooth margins
- Watermark
- Smooth stalk

Photo: Mike Collins, Forages CD, 2nd Edition
Kura Clover Characteristics
Inflorescence

- Head
- Round
- White to pink flowers
- Smooth stalk

Photo: Mike Collins, Forages CD, 2nd Edition
Kura Clover Characteristics
Seed

Photo: Mike Collins, The World of Clovers CD-ROM
Kura Clover Characteristics
Roots and Rhizomes

Photo: Mike Collins, Forages CD, 2nd Edition
## Kura Clover Adaptation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>pH Range</th>
<th>Tolerances</th>
<th>Poor Drainage</th>
<th>Heaving Potential</th>
<th>Winter Hardiness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa</td>
<td>6.1 – 8.4</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trefoil</td>
<td>5.1 – 8.4</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kura Clover</strong></td>
<td>5.1 – 7.3</td>
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<td>Good</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Clover</td>
<td>5.1 – 8.4</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Clover</td>
<td>5.1 – 8.4</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Very good</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from Forages, 6th Edition and NRCS Pasture Handbook
Kura Clover Research in Iowa

Trials:

• Small Plot Yield and Quality (1994-96)
  Agronomy Journal 92:24-29.

• Grazing Tolerance (1996-98)
  Agronomy Journal 92:466-471.

• Grazing Performance (1996-2001)
Kura Clover Yield in Iowa

Agronomy Journal 92:24-29.
Kura Clover Quality in Iowa

Agronomy Journal 92:24-29.
Kura Clover Quality in Iowa

Agronomy Journal 92:24-29.
Kura Clover Quality in Iowa

Agronomy Journal 92:24-29.
Kura Clover Persistence in Iowa

Agronomy Journal 92:466-471.
### Grazing Kura Clover Pastures in Iowa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bromegrass</td>
<td>Switchgrass</td>
<td>Bromegrass</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Bluestem</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>Bromegrass</td>
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<td>Alfalfa</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kura</td>
<td>Bluestem</td>
<td>Kura</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grazing Kura Clover Pastures in Iowa

Grazing Kura Clover Pastures in Iowa

Gain per Animal (lb)

Legume:  None  Alfalfa  Trefoil  Kura

Grazing Kura Clover Pastures in Iowa

Seasonal Variation (%)

Legume: None, Alfalfa, Trefoil, Kura

Growing Kura Clover in Iowa
Concerns

- Poor seedling vigor
- Slow to establish
- May cause bloat
- Seed cost

Photo: Lowell Moser, Forages CD, 2nd Edition
Kura Clover Establishment
Cultivars

- Rhizo
- Cossack
- Endura
- NF93
Kura Clover Establishment

Methods

• Prepared Seedbed

• No-till seeding
  — Into dead sod

• Frost seeding
  — Not recommended

* Seed inoculation required in all cases
  Do not use clover mix inoculants

Photo: Mike Collins, Forages CD, 2nd Edition
Kura Clover Establishment

Timing
• Early spring
• Late summer

Depth
• ¼ - ½ inch

Seeding Rates
• Solid stand: 4-10 lb per acre
• Mixture: 2-6 lb per acre

Photo: Jimmy Henning, Forages CD, 2nd Edition
Kura Clover Establishment
Weed Control

- Limited options
- Start with clean seedbed or
- Suppress sod
- Graze or mow to control competition
Kura Clover
Seed Sources

• Albert Lea Seed House
  Albert Lea, MN
  800-352-5247
  www.alseed.com

• Croplan Genetics
  Sioux Falls, SD
  800-568-5424
  www.croplangenetics.com

• Norfarm Seeds, Inc
  Roseau, MN
  218-463-2119

Inoculant Sources

• Olds Seed Solution
  Madison, WI
  800-356-7333
  www.seedsolutions.com

• Star Seed
  Beloit, KS
  800-782-7611
  www.gostartseed.com

• Plant Probotics
  St. Joseph, Mo
  816-233-1199

Seed and inoculant may be available from other sources.