



Instructions

Seedbed Preparation, Planting and Maintenance

For best results, complete all steps! Cutting corners in the planting process can negatively affect your results.

Site Selection

1. **Select an area with medium to heavy soil that holds moisture.** Avoid sites that don't hold moisture well such as hillsides and sites with soils that drain quickly.

Seedbed Preparation

2. **Adjust Soil pH If Low.** If possible, perform a laboratory soil test for a "Giant White Clover" planting. (High quality laboratory soil test kits are available from the Whitetail Institute.) Add any lime recommended in the lab's report to the seedbed. If you don't test your soil with a laboratory soil test kit, then add **a minimum of two tons of lime per acre**. Disk or till the lime into the seedbed. (Note: If possible, perform Step 2 several months in advance of planting. *Making sure soil pH is between 6.5 and 7.5 before you plant is the most important thing you can do to ensure food-plot success!*)
3. **Disk or Till The Seedbed.** Disk or till the seedbed. If weedy or new ground, then disk or till again a week later. Repeated tillage during seedbed preparation can help remove dormant weed seed from the soil.
4. **Fertilize The Seedbed.** Before putting the seed out, add the fertilizer recommended in your soil-test report to the seedbed. If you didn't do a laboratory soil test, then add **400 pounds of 6-24-24 or equivalent fertilizer per acre**. Lightly disk or till the fertilizer into the seedbed.
5. **Smooth And Level The Seedbed.** Before putting the seed out, smooth and level the seedbed with a cultipacker, if available. If a cultipacker isn't available, then drag the seedbed with a drag harrow or something like a weighted piece of chain-link fence to help level the seedbed and eliminate big cracks.

Planting

6. **Put Out The Seed.** Broadcast seed at a rate of **at least 8 pounds per acre**. A shoulder- or hand-type bag seeder is preferred. Set the seeder's gap to about 1/8-inch, which is usually the smallest setting on such seeders. Seeding with a shoulder seeder in two separate passes across each other can help ensure even seed coverage.
7. **DO NOT DISK OR TILL THE SEEDS IN!** If you used a cultipacker in Step 6, then roll the field again after seeding. If you used a drag in Step 6, then do nothing further after you put out the seed. **Do not cover the seeds!**
8. **Optional:** After planting, consider placing a small wire basket over a portion of your Imperial Whitetail Clover so wildlife can't graze that area. Comparing the height of the clover inside and outside the basket will show you how hard deer are grazing the plot.

Maintenance

1. **Grass Control.** Controlling grass is your number 1 maintenance priority. If you see grass appearing in your Imperial Whitetail Clover stand in the spring once you see the grass actively growing (actually increasing in height), spray Arrest MAX to control it. Adding the Whitetail Institute's Surefire Crop Oil Plus to the Arrest spray tank is highly recommended when the grasses to be treated are perennial and/or mature.
2. **Broadleaf Weed Control.** Slay herbicide can be used to control many kinds of broadleaf weeds in established stands of Imperial Whitetail Clover. Follow all label instructions. An adjuvant such as the Whitetail Institute's Surefire Crop Oil Plus must be tank mixed with Slay for Slay to work.
3. **Mowing.** Depending on your deer and wildlife population and/or how much you plant, you may choose to mow your clover a few times during the spring and summer. Timing: When you see the Imperial Whitetail Clover or any weeds or grasses in the plot starting to flower, mow the plot to stop the flowering process. This can help with control of grasses and other weeds, and it can help your Imperial Whitetail Clover remain as lush, tender, nutritious and attractive as possible. Height: Just remove a little off the top – just enough to remove the flowers and stop the flowering process. Weather: Do not mow during hot, dry weather.
4. **Soil pH and Soil Fertility.** If possible, perform a laboratory soil test to determine lime and fertilizer requirements. You may need to add more lime every few years. If you don't do a laboratory soil test, then fertilize your Imperial Whitetail Clover with 300 pounds of 0-20-20 or equivalent per acre. Spring and early fall are the best times to fertilize. Apply fertilizer when plants are dry.