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Red clover for grazing – PASTOR

Origin

PASTOR is a diploid red clover and the first variety to have been specially bred for grazing. This variety is a result of a cross between a wild clover from permanent pastures in the Jura region and a Mattenlee-type clover – it therefore combines characteristics of both varieties. PASTOR originally comes from Switzerland, where it is recommended as a grazing red clover.

Qualities

PASTOR is characterised by rather flat growth as well as higher resilience than conventional red clover; it can therefore tolerate grazing better than other varieties. Apart from that, it produces high yields and stands out because of its high persistence and excellent stand establishment. PASTOR is also an extremely winter-hardy variety and distinguishes itself through its excellent resistance properties e.g. against anthracnose and mildew.

Special qualities

Externally, this variety can be differentiated from the conventional red clover by its smaller leaves and intensive shoot formation.

These characteristics give PASTOR the potential to replace white clover as a component in appropriate mixtures.



Fact check

- ▶ First red clover for grazing
- ▶ Considerably flatter growth
- ▶ Higher resilience than conventional red clover
- ▶ Very good stand establishment
- ▶ Intensive shoot formation
- ▶ Smaller leaves

Variety testing

Status in Switzerland


Agronomic properties

List of recommended varieties of fodder plants 2017–2018

(Suter et al., Agrarforschung Schweiz 8(1), Beilage/Encart, 2017)

	PASTOR
Yield	4,8
Development	3,3
Competitive ability	5,5
Persistence	3,9
Resistance to winterkilling	4,5
Resistance to anthracnose	1,2
Resistance to leaf diseases	2,3

Grading scale: 1 = very high; 9 = very low
Yield: Average of 5 test locations over a period of 2 years
Medium: Average of the compared varieties

 particularly good

Variety description according to technical guidelines DUS

DHS testing in Scharnhorst, BSA (DE), 2008–2010

(Frick et al. 2008) ("White clover" 2n)

DUS no.	Characteristic	Expression of a characteristic	Grade
2	Ploidy	Diploid	2
5	Plant: natural height in the year of sowing	Medium	5
6	Leaf: colour in the year of sowing	Medium green	5
7	Plant: vegetative growth form (without vernalisation)	Semi-recumbent	7
9	Plant: natural height in spring	Medium	5
10	Leaf: intensity of green colouration	Medium	5
11	Time of flowering	Early	3
12	Stalk: length	Short to medium	4
14	Stalk: number of internodes	Low to medium	4