

# Strawberry Clover O'CONNORS

PUBLIC



Sowing rate: 1-2kg/ha (Pure) 2-4kg/ha (Irrig) 0.5-1kg/ha (Mixes)

## Key Features

- Generally a more prostrate variety often used in turf or amenity situations
- Suited to continuous grazing
- Tolerant of waterlogging and alkaline soils
- Fine stems and small leaves
- Can withstand heavy grazing and cutting

## Description

O'Connors Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*) is a small-leaved, deep rooted, Perennial Clover that demonstrates a prostrate growth habit. It has adapted to a wide range of soil types. O'Connors will provide good spring, summer and autumn production, but growth during the winter period is slow. Seedling vigour is low and therefore will require careful management during the establishment period. Once established, O'Connors will persist better under heavy grazing pressure than White Clover. It generally doesn't suffer significantly from many insects or diseases that can commonly attack other Clovers. While O'Connors is generally not as productive as other Clover species, it is one of the best Clovers to tolerate waterlogged, saline/alkaline environments and is an excellent alternative crop for these conditions.

## Disease Resistance/Tolerance

Various Clover diseases have been recorded on O'Connors from time to time but very few have caused any serious economic loss.

## Pest Resistance

O'Connors is susceptible to Red Legged Earth Mites (*Halotydeus destructor*) and Blue Oat Mites (*Penthaleus major*). Control is essential at the early seedling stage and appropriate pest management must be implemented as required.

## Variety Management/Agronomy

**Regeneration:** O'Connors is a hard-seeded variety, which will allow it to build up a strong seed reserve, enhancing long term persistence.

**Grazing:** O'Connors can withstand heavy continuous grazing, once plants have been able to establish and strong runners developed. Care must be taken with new sown pastures, so as not to over graze too early, as plants can be pulled from the ground. It can cause bloat in cattle and increase the incidence of urinary calculi in sheep. During the year of establishment, plants should be allowed to flower and set seed to ensure a good seed bank.

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