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Red Clover Variety Trials through 1982

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AGRONOMY NOTES

Volume 16. No. 1. RED CLOVER VARIETY TRIALS THROUGH 1982 March 1983

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Care should be taken by growers to obtain red clover seed of known origin, variety, germination, and purity. Whenever possible, purchase of certified seed of adapted varieties is strongly advised. Varieties such as Altaswede, Norlac, and Ottawa from Canada; Arlington and Lakeland from Wisconsin; Pennscott from Pennsylvania; Chesapeake from Maryland; and Tensas from Louisiana are not as well suited for use in Kentucky as are Kenland, Kenstar, and a few other varieties developed for the general area of Kentucky.

NOTE: Plots are harvested in the seeding year but these yields are not included in the summary below. Yields at Lexington are the total yield from 7 or 8 harvests taken in the second and third year of stands, but at Princeton, from 3 or 4 harvests from the second year of stand only.

Table 1. Dry Weight Yields and Rankings of Red Clover Varieties in Six Tests.

Location	Lexington								Princeton			
Year Seeded	1977		1978		1979		1980		1978		1980	
Harvest Years	1978-1979		1979-1980		1980-1981		1981-1982		1979		1981	
Variety	T/A	Rank	T/A	Rank	T/A	Rank	T/A	Rank	T/A	Rank	T/A	Rank
Altaswede	1.97	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Arlington	4.50	6	8.72	6	6.02	13	6.28	11	3.68	5	3.61	8
Chesapeake	--	--	7.97	9	7.02	8	6.26	12	3.42	7	3.23	12
Flare	--	--	--	--	7.60	3	7.97	3	--	--	3.46	9
Florex	3.53	9	--	--	5.64	14	5.61	14	--	--	2.82	15
Florie	5.08	3	--	--	6.59	10	7.10	6	3.69	4	3.83	4
Kenland	2.54	10	9.76	1	8.64	1	8.07	1	4.05	2	4.26	1
Kenstar	5.48	2	9.05	3	7.92	2	7.99	2	3.92	3	4.12	2
Kuhn	--	--	6.16	12	--	--	--	--	3.36	8	--	--
Lakeland	3.83	8	7.58	10	5.23	15	5.46	15	3.10	11	2.87	14
Norlac	2.05	11	4.84	14	3.73	16	3.12	16	2.11	15	2.15	16
Ottawa	--	--	--	--	6.28	11	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pennscott	4.17	7	8.04	8	6.28	11	5.88	13	3.20	10	2.90	13
Prosper I	--	--	8.70	7	6.65	9	6.56	9	3.30	9	3.32	11
Redhead	--	--	5.39	13	--	--	--	--	2.84	14	--	--
Redland	4.75	4	8.74	5	7.74	4	7.25	5	4.19	1	4.09	3
Redland II	--	--	--	--	7.19	6	7.06	8	--	--	3.81	5
Redman	5.88	1	9.29	2	7.17	7	7.08	7	3.56	6	3.69	7
Redmor	--	--	8.88	4	7.21	5	6.40	10	3.06	12	3.46	9
RF-2	4.55	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Although certified seed of adapted red clover varieties is expensive, it is a gamble to use lower cost, uncertified seed. A yield trial of 19 lots of uncertified seed was sown at Lexington on March 15, 1977 using certified Kenstar as check. Dry weight yields obtained from three harvests made in 1978 show a great range in yield (Table 2). Uncertified Kenland yielded about the same as the unnamed lots.

Poorly adapted varieties show markedly reduced yields in the second season and even more reduction in the third year. To show typical distribution of yields in the second and third years of a stand, yields for 1980 and 1981 are shown for a stand seeded in 1979. Also shown are yields produced for 1982 from another trial seeded at Lexington March 31, 1981 (Table 3).

TABLE 2. Dry Weight Yields of 19 Lots of Uncertified Red Clover and Certified Kenstar.

Origin	Ident.	Ton/A
Ky.	Kenstar	4.00
Ore.	Kenland	3.67
Ky.	Common*	3.25
Ill.	Common	2.95
Mo.	Common	2.91
Ore.	Kenland	2.65
Ore.	Kenland	2.26
Ore.	Kenland	2.17
Ida.	Common	2.17
Ohio	Kenland	1.93
Mich.	Common	1.90
Ore.	Kenland	1.68
Ore.	Kenland	1.51
Ore.	Kenland	1.12
Ore.	Kenland	0.67
Minn.	Common	0.58
Ore.	Common	0.51
Ore.	Common	0.41
Ore.	Kenland	0.24

*No variety name listed.

TABLE 3. Yields in Two Tests at Lexington.

Yr. Seeded	1979*			1981**	
Harv. Yrs.	1980	1981	1980-81	1982	
Variety	T/A	T/A	T/A	T/A	Rank
Kenland	5.19	3.45	8.64	5.45	1
Kenstar	4.94	2.98	7.92	4.64	4
Flare	4.84	2.76	7.60	5.19	3
Redland	4.82	2.65	7.47	5.20	2
Redmor	4.76	2.45	7.21	3.83	12
Redland II	4.72	2.47	7.19	4.56	5
Redman	4.70	2.47	7.17	4.49	7
Chesapeake	4.97	2.05	7.02	4.07	10
Prosper I	4.50	2.15	6.65	4.54	6
Florie	4.45	2.14	6.59	4.24	9
Ottawa	4.08	1.49	6.28	--	--
Pennscott	4.39	1.89	6.28	--	--
Arlington	4.22	1.80	6.02	4.33	8
Florex	3.98	1.66	5.64	3.92	11
Lakeland	3.86	1.37	5.23	3.61	13
Norlac	2.68	1.05	3.73	2.27	15
Kuhn	--	--	--	2.23	16
Tensas	--	--	--	3.40	14

*Seeded at Lexington March 20, 1979
**Seeded at Lexington March 30, 1981