

## **Historic, archived document**

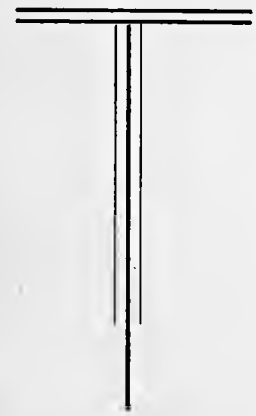
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



2.17

51737? 2

# COVERCROP NEWS



Sec. 562, P. L. & R.

LIBRARY  
RECEIVED  
☆ APR 17 1937 ☆  
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

# Alyce Clover

## HISTORY

Alyce clover was first seen growing in a grove near Lakeland, Florida, about 1918. It was about 1925 that its real identity was made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Alyce clover so named from its botanical name *Alysicarpus vaginalis* is a native of Southern Asia, West Indies and India.

## VALUES

It was first noted that in the portion of the grove where Alyce clover was growing for several years the trees were much larger and more productive of a better quality fruit than in that portion of the grove which did not have Alyce clover as a covercrop. It was so noticeable that much interest was given the crop by agricultural authorities. The value of the crop as a hay is given in the following analysis made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

### PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION OF ALYCE CLOVER HAY

Crop	Water	Ash	Crude Protein	Carbohydrates		Fat
				Fiber	Nitrogen Free Ext.	
Alyce Clover	7.28	3.58	12.66	44.13	30.63	1.72

The above analysis compares very much the same as Alfalfa and is being used by dairymen when obtainable as the best hay obtainable. All kinds of stock are very fond of the hay which is easy to cure.

## FERTILIZER VALUES

### 2.6% AMMONIA IN HAY

From the above analysis it is determined that as a fertilizer the hay or tops has nitrogen content of 2.6%, as ammonia. The root system of Alyce clover is profusely covered with nodules which are rich in nitrogen content. As a fertilizer the root system is even more valuable than the tops so it is readily seen that Alyce clover is a rich fertilizer producing legume. It is possible to save one-third to one-half the costs of fertilizing crops after Alyce clover has been grown and returned to the soil for three or four years, for with this rich organic nitrogen producer it is possible to use cheaper forms of inorganic ammonia where needed.

## HABITS, Etc.

Alyce clover exactly fits into our summer covercrop or hay crop production as it comes up with the warm summer rains from May until July and is matured in October. It reseeds many times over each year the amount of seed necessary for the next years crop, and much like beggarweed seed will lie dormant many years with little or no loss in value if too deep to come up. The first seeding of grove or land is the only seeding necessary. Plant in well prepared land, cover seed lightly for best results. With normal season Alyce clover will produce one to three tons of hay per acre when well seeded. As the stems of Alyce clover are very small, but very numerous, it is easy to make into a first quality hay or easily cut into the soil as a covercrop. Its rich nitrogen content aids materially in the breaking down of the fibers and one or two discing operations it seems to melt into the soil.

## THE SEED

Alyce clover seed are very small, being about 1-4 to 1-3 the size of beggarweed seed. Our supply of seed is very clean and pure. The only satisfactory methods of threshing and cleaning are by hand labor which has some bearing on the price of the seed. However our methods have been improved and the price the lowest since production of seed began. It is the lowest cost legume that is obtainable, as the seed are very much smaller and only one seeding will ever be necessary if the crop is allowed to reseed. Prices for seed are as follows:

1 to 20 lbs.	\$1.00 per pound postpaid
20 to 50 lbs.	.75 per pound F.O.B. Lakeland, Fla.
100 lbs.	.65 per pound F.O.B. Lakeland, Fla.
500 lbs.	Price on request

Please send your order with check or money order with full shipping instructions for prompt service.

# Hardin Groves & Nurseries

P. O. BOX 63

Lakeland, Florida

