

This is an old
variety description
of Altaswede

ALTASWEDE

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Crop Red clover**Variety** Altaswede**Date licensed** Not recorded (distributed before 1923, when licensing was first started).**Breeder** J. R. Fryer, Department of Field Crops, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta.**Origin of breeding stock** Late Swedish red clover was introduced into Canada in 1914 by the Seed Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The University of Alberta received material in 1916, and a selective breeding program was applied. The name Altaswede was given in 1919.**Breeding method** Mass selection.**Description** Late flowering or single-cut type. Perennial in habit. At Edmonton, plants have lived 5 years. In the first season, the growth is confined to a rosette of leaves and very short stems with a small percentage of flowering stalks. In the second and subsequent years, flowering stalks are produced. These are generally erect, quite tall, and branched. About 45 percent of the plants are smooth stemmed, 45 percent are smooth except for slight hairiness on the upper one to two internodes. The remaining 10 percent of the plants have hairy stems. Leaves elongated; the younger ones pointed, whereas the older ones more rounded at the extremity; pale green, hairy on both sides. The flowery

heads rather oval, longer than wide, and the flower color varies from white, which is rare, to red with varying shades of pink predominating.

Altaswede red clover possesses a high degree of winterhardiness. It is not particularly drought resistant. It thrives north and west of and at Edmonton, where the average annual precipitation is 17 inches or more. Altaswede red clover is somewhat susceptible to powdery mildew and northern anthracnose.

Basic stock Breeder seed is maintained at the University of Alberta by seeding increase plots under isolation using seed from previous production.

Seed distribution Canadian Forage Seed Project

Areas of adaptation Alberta and central British Columbia.