

# Oversowing sub-clover checklist

The table below can be used as a guide for planning and managing the process of oversowing sub-clover - preparation, during sowing and after establishment. It outlines key checks and actions to help ensure successful sub-clover establishment.

**For more information:**

**Table 1. Example of a planning checklist for oversowing sub-clover and managing for success.**

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Timing	Checks		Observations & actions required
Pre-sowing	Ability to graze as required (paddock infrastructure)	Is there an adequate water source? Does fencing require improvement? Is the paddock divided by land class?	
	Soil condition	Do I need to apply fertiliser/lime before sowing? How much & what type of fertiliser is required?	
	Weed and pest control	What weeds are present? What pests are present? Pasture trash levels?	
	Cultivar selection and rate	Select a cultivar suitable for the soil type and rainfall.	
Sowing	Timing and method of sowing	Suitable seeder (discs/baker boot, <20cm row spacing). Assess soil moisture & forecast rain. Sowing depth - shallow (less than 30mm).	
Post-sowing	Post-sowing observations	Check for clover establishment - count plant numbers. Check for weeds. Check for pests 10, 15 and 20 days after sowing.	
	Post-sowing management	Observe for 3rd trifoliate leaf to begin grazing. Rest the paddock when clover begins flowering. Manage summer pasture trash levels.	

**Table 2. Example of the checklist used at the Rokewood demo farm.**

Timing	Checks	Observations	Actions
Pre-sowing	Paddock infrastructure	Is there an adequate water source? Is the paddock divided by land class?	<i>Paddock small with one distinct land class (flats)</i>  <i>No subdivisional fencing needed for separate land classes. Water trough is adequate.</i>
	Soil condition	Do I need to apply fertiliser/lime before sowing? How much & what type of fertiliser is required?	<i>Phosphorous limiting (Olsen P - 5 mg/kg). pH ok. Paddock surface flat.</i>  <i>Application of capital P prior to sowing - 300 kg/ha SSP</i>
	Weed, pest & competition control	What pests are present? What weeds are present? Pasture trash levels?	<i>Red-legged earth mite present.</i>  <i>Old established phalaris and silver grass main weeds.</i>  <i>Limited sheep to clear trash, potential slug and sowing issues.</i>  <i>TIMERITE® spray for earth mites in the spring before sowing.</i>  <i>Use paraquat to suppress phalaris at sowing and look to kill germinating silver grass.</i>  <i>Slash paddock in March. Graze to reduce competition. Use slug bait at sowing. Reapply if bait disappears.</i>
	Cultivar selection and rate	Select a cultivar suitable for the soil type and rainfall.	<i>Heavy clay with potential waterlogging.</i>  <i>Select mid-maturing, white-seeded sub-clover types. Need 5 kg/ha each of the varieties Rouse and Yanco.</i>  <i>Source inoculated seed early to be ready to sow.</i>
Sowing	Timing and method of sowing	Suitable seeder Assess soil moisture & forecast rain. Sowing depth.	<i>No suitable pasture drill.</i>  <i>Adequate - moist but not sticky.</i>  <i>Shallow depth (less than 30mm).</i>  <i>Hire suitable seed drill with baker boots, 15 cm row spacing.</i>  <i>Aim to sow late April to early May (after autumn break).</i>  <i>Check sowing depth and soil coverage every 100–200 meters or after the initial few passes of the seeder, then check less frequently if they are consistent.</i>
Post-sowing	Post sowing observations	Clover establishment, weeds & pests.	<i>Check establishment, weeds and pests 10, 15 and 20 days after sowing.</i>  <i>Count the number of plants emerged. Treat pests if damage observed.</i>
	Post sowing management	Leaf appearance.	<i>Observe for 3rd trifoliolate leaf to begin grazing.</i>  <i>Check leaf appearance at 3 and 6 weeks following germination. Start to graze when sub-clover has 3 true leaves, then keep pastures grazed short over winter</i>
		Flower appearance. Summer trash levels.	<i>Rest the paddock when clover begins flowering.</i>  <i>Manage summer pasture trash levels.</i>  <i>Check for flowers in late September. Need to lighten grazing when flowers start to appear to maximise seed set.</i>  <i>Assess pasture litter levels in summer, aiming to leave a 1000 kg DM/ha by the autumn break to encourage germination. Slash paddock if stocking pressure isn't enough to remove old litter.</i>