



Fact Sheet

# FORMICA

## Red Clover (2n)

*Trifolium pratense* L.

### Things to know

The cultivar FORMICA has been systematically selected for a reduced content of formononetin. This substance is supposed to be responsible for the oestrogenic effect of red clover on ruminants, which can affect their fertility. With the utilisation of FORMICA the risk of undesirable influences on animals can nearly be excluded, even with a high forage proportion of red clover. The remaining agronomic characteristics of FORMICA conform to the persistent "Mattenklee" type. However, the productivity of the variety can decrease in the second harvest year, especially with the appearance of anthracnose (*Colletotrichum trifolii*).

### Descent

#### Base material

Selection of landraces (collections 1970-1972). Selected on a reduced content of formononetin.

### M0 seed

Row trials 1988 and 1990 with seed harvest on spaced plants progenies.

### Literature

Suter D., Hirschi H.-U., Frick R., 2019. Rotklee unter der Lupe: Ergebnisse der Sortenprüfung 2016-2018. Agrarforschung Schweiz 10(11), 454-461

Suter D., Frick R., Hirschi H.-U., Aebi P., 2014. Sortenprüfung mit Rotklee: deutliche Fortschritte. Agrarforschung Schweiz 5(7), 272-279

### National listing

#### Situation in Switzerland

On the Swiss List of Recommended Varieties of Forage Plants from 1993 to 2021

Further registered in the following countries

### Agronomic characteristics

Results of the official Swiss variety trials 2016-2018 (Suter et al. 2019) (Mattenklee diploid)

	FORMICA	Mean
Yield	6.4	4.2
General impression	3.7	3.1
Juvenile growth	3.7	3.5
Competing ability	5.2	4.4
Persistence	6.4	4.7
Resistance to winter conditions	4.0	3.5
Resistance to Anthracnose	4.5	2.6
Resistance to leafspots an rust	3.3	2.6
Index (weighted average of all notes)	4.8	3.6

Scoring scale      1 = very good; 5 = medium; 9 = very poor  
 Yield                Mean of 5 experimental sites over 2 years  
 Mean                 Mean value of standard varieties

### Description according to UPOV guidelines

DUS test conducted at Scharnhorst, BSA (DEU), 1995-1997

UPOV No	Characteristics	State of expression	Note
2	Ploidy	diploid	2
5	Plant: natural height in the year of sowing	tall	7
6	Leaf: color in the year of sowing	medium green to dark green	6
9	Plant: natural height in spring	medium to tall	6
10	Leaf: Color in spring	medium green	5
11	Time of flowering	very early to early	2
12	Stem: length	short	3
14	Stem: number of internodes	low to medium	4
16	Leaf: shape of medial leaflet	ovate	2

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