

VOLUNTEER RED CLOVER

Significance as a Weed:

Mainly known as a forage and cover crop in winter wheat. Volunteer red clover can re-grow the next season, even after tillage or a fall herbicide treatment has been made.

Life Cycle: Biennial or short-lived perennial

Reproduction: Reproduces only by seed.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Tri-foliolate, the leaflets are serrated and usually contain an inverted “v-shaped” watermark. The stems and leaflets are hairy.
- Consists of up to 125 flowers, rose purple or deep purplish-red in colour. The head will be nested in 2-3 leaves.



(Source: ontariowildflower.com)

Fall Control

Fall control is the most effective way to control red clover. Although re-growth next spring (particularly with glyphosate) can occur. Chemical control in the fall will not negate or reduce the nitrogen credit provided by red clover.

Table 1. Visual control of red clover the following spring after various post-emergent herbicides had been applied in the fall.

PRODUCT (Rate per acre)	TIMING	% CONTROL
Banvel II or Oracle (0.25 L/ac)	POST	99
amitole (1 L/ac)	POST	93
2,4-D Ester – 564 g/L (0.5 L/ac)	POST	91
glyphosate (2 L/ac)	POST	90
glyphosate (1 L/ac)	POST	86

Source: Dr. Peter Sikkema, Ridgetown College, University of Guelph

* Rating: Based on a scale from 0 to 9. A rating of 0 represents 0 to 10% control of the weed and 9 represents 90 to 100% control.

Volunteer Red Clover control options in Corn.

Table 2. Visual control of red clover 28 days after various post-emergent herbicides had been applied.

PRODUCT (Rate per acre)	TIMING	% CONTROL
Callisto + atrazine	POST	96
Summit	POST	96
Marksman (High Rate)	POST	95
PeakPlus	POST	95
Banvel II / Oracle	POST	94
Distinct	POST	94
atrazine + 1% Corn Oil Concentrate	POST	88
Pardner / Koril + atrazine	POST	85
Shotgun	POST	80

Source: Dr. Peter Sikkema, Ridgetown College, University of Guelph
Red Clover ranged from the 3 to 20 + leaf stage or 4 to 32 cm in height at application.