

'Meechee' ARROWLEAF CLOVER  
*Trifolium vesiculosum* Savi

**Description:** An upright, cool-season, annual legume that can grow to a height of 40-50 inches under good conditions. Seeds germinate in the fall and plants grow slowly during the winter. Leaflets are large, rounded at the base, pointed at the tip, and they generally have white, V-shaped markings. Individual flowers are arranged in a cluster or head up to 2 inches long. Initially, the flowers are white to pinkish, turning brown when mature. Flowering and seed production occurs over a long period of time in late spring and summer.

**Uses:** Used for hay production, grazing, cover cropping, seed production, and wildlife food. Deer and turkey readily feed on this clover which often persists well into early summer. 'Meechee' is a good reseeder and the seed can remain viable in the soil for several years.

**Site adaptation:** It is suited to a wide range of soil conditions from well to moderately well-drained and from slightly acid to slightly alkaline. Optimum soil pH is 6.0-6.5. It is not suited to light textured, droughty soils of low fertility or to poorly drained, wet soils.

### Cultural Specifications

**Method of establishment:** Seed.

**Planting time:** September 1 - November 15.

**Seedbed preparation:** Prepare a smooth, clean seedbed. Firm the soil with a cultipacker before planting. 'Meechee' may also be planted into an established perennial grass sod by light disking or with a no-till drill. Interseeding into a grass sod should be delayed until about the first frost date.

**Planting rate and method:** Drill 10 lb of seed per acre (10.5 gram/100 square feet). Seed should be scarified before planting and inoculated with O (arrowleaf clover) inoculant. Seeding depth should be one-fourth to one-half inch. Cultipacking after planting is recommended.

**Fertilizer requirement:** Follow soil test recommendations if available. If not, apply 300 lb/acre (11 oz/100 square feet) of 0-20-20 or similar analysis at planting and annually in August or September as a maintenance fertilizer.

**Companion plants:** Warm-season perennial grasses and small grains or annual ryegrass.

### Management

**Disking:** To encourage reseeding, a light disking in early September is recommended.

**Grazing/Mowing:** Start grazing when plants are 5-6 inches tall. Maintain a minimum top growth of 3-4 inches during the growing season. For hay, cut in the early bloom stage. When 'Meechee' is grown with perennial grasses, graze or cut

the grass to a height of 2 inches by October 1. For commercial seed production, exclude livestock and do not cut for hay after May 1. For reseeding, allow plants to attain a minimum height of 12-15 inches in early July in order to mature seed.

**Seed production:** Seed can be harvested by direct combining. Seed yields range from 200 to 300 lb/acre.

Prepared by:  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center  
2533 County Road 65  
Coffeerville, MS 38922-2652  
Telephone (662) 675-2588  
FAX (662) 675-2369

May 2000

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.