WISCONSIN - Red Clover/Kura Clover/Grass Mixtures for Good Short- and Long-Term Legume Content

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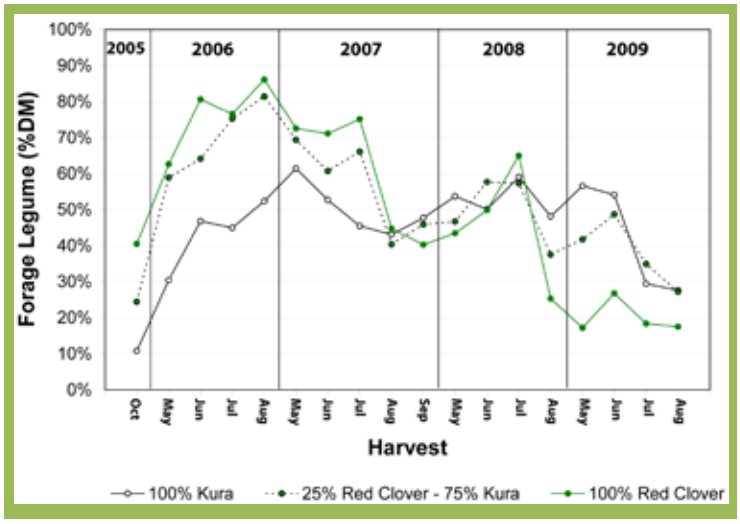
Kura clover is difficult to establish and produces less forage early in its pasture life, but it has great potential as a durable legume in permanent pasture and in living-mulch management systems. This study paired Kura clover with faster establishing forage legumes (red clover or birdsfoot trefoil) at different mixture rates in companionship with one of three pasture grasses (orchardgrass, reed canarygrass, or tall fescue) in seeding mixtures.



The 25% red clover:75% Kura clover mixture coupled with grass companions produced the most legume (>50%) over a 5-year period, with consistently high forage legume yields in early years derived from red clover, and high forage legume yields in later years derived from Kura clover. In birdsfoot trefoil/Kura clover mixtures with grass, optimal seeding ratios between forage legumes were 25:75 and 50:50 trefoil to Kura clover. Producers and seed companies can use this information to formulate pasture seeding mixtures that maximize forage legume production in pastures over a long time.