

#### Incorporating white clover in grassland swards Dr. Michael Egan





#### TEAGASC RESEARCH INSIGHTS LEADING RESEARCH FOR TOMORROW'S AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS How do we promote clover growth?

#### •What does white clover need for growth and

### persistence?



Index	Description
1	Very Low
2	Low
3	Target
4	High







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## How to establish a white clover sward?

- 1. Direct reseeding
  - Prepare a fine firm seedbed
  - Sowing depth 10 12 mm
  - Sowing rate
    - Grass 27 kg/ha
    - White clover 2.5 3.5 kg/ha







## White clover establishment

1.

- Reseeding provides best results
- Select paddocks for over sowing





- Correct soil fertility issues
- Spray any weeds well in advance of oversowing to allow for residual time frame





# Establishing white clover on-farm

- Put a clear plan in place
- Early April to Mid-June
- Select paddocks that are best suited

- Targeted multiyear approach
  - Year 1 reseed 10%, over-sow 30%
  - Year 2 reseed 10%, over-sow 30%
  - Year 3 reseed 10% & any remaining paddocks
- On-going process











#### **Management post-sowing**

- Clover safe post emergence spray
- Light penetration to the base of the sward
- First grazing after reseeding or over sowing
- Graze every three weeks thereafter





Avoid shading







# White Clover Development

Rosette phase

- Expansion phase
  Taproot death
- Clonal phase











• The normal status for white clover.







## Conclusion



- Get the basis right soil fertility and grazing management
- Put a plan in place when selecting paddocks
- Post sowing management is vital

