

## Clover seed production – in organic and conventional cropping systems

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### Abstract

Seed yields in organic farming systems are lower than in conventional systems, by 7-13% in grasses and 76% in white clover (*Trifolium repens*) compared to yields in conventional systems (Lund-Kristensen et al., 2000).

The major yield reduction was found to be caused by the white clover seed weevil (*Apion fulvipes*) and the lesser clover leaf weevil (*Hypera nigrirostris*) and no region in Denmark was found to be free from this pest. White clover seed crops free of pests have the potential of a 40% higher seed yield, and the yield reduction in organic white clover seed production can largely be explained by insufficient pest control methods (Boelt, 2005).

A series of experiments have been initiated to reduce the yield reduction from pests in organic crops, however, none of these have been able to produce seed yields in white clover comparable to yields in conventional cropping systems. Results from these experiments will be presented, information from a video illustrating the life cycle of the clover seed weevil and the present status of white clover seed production in organic and conventional cropping systems in Denmark.

### References

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