



**Botanical name:** *Trifolium repens*

**Common Name:** White clover, Dutch clover, honeysuckle clover, ladino clover, purplewort, shamrock, white clover, white Dutch clover, white trefoil

**Family:** Fabaceae (previously Leguminosae)

**Origin:** Europe, incl. the British Isles and central Asia.

**Habitat:** common and widespread weed of lawns, parks, gardens, roadside, waste areas, disturbed sites, riparian vegetation, grasslands, open woodlands and alpine region. Growing mainly in temperate and sub-tropical regions mostly in winter and spring.

**Habit:** herbaceous perennial

**Cultivation:** Commonly cultivated as a pasture legume, particularly in the cooler parts of Australia.

**Height:** Prostrate

**Leaves:** Trifoliate with oval or heart shaped leaflets. Leaves may have a

**Stems:** Creeping mostly hairless (i.e. glabrous or glabrescent) stems (i.e. stolons) grow very close to ground level and produce roots (i.e. adventitious roots) at their joints (i.e. nodes). They are usually less than 30cm long.

**Reproduction:** Is by seed or vegetatively via its creeping stems.

**Environmental Impacts:** regarded as an environmental weed in Vic, NSW and WA and is most problematic in alpine regions of SE Aust., where it threatens endangered native species.

**Toxicity:** The plant itself is not toxic however it can contract *Rhizoctonia leguminicola* fungus which contains the toxin slaframine that cause undesirable symptoms in horses.

**Control Methods:**

**Benefits:**

- It has been widely introduced worldwide as a forage crop and is now also common in most grassy areas of Australia, NZ and North America.

light crescent mark on the upper side. Leaves are smooth and hairless.

**Flowers:** White or pink flowers containing arranged in globular clusters. Each cluster contain numerous flowers, 30-40. Clusters are 2.5 cm in diameter and borne on long stalks in the leaf axils.

**Fruit:** Small oblong pods containing 3-4 brown/yellow, egg-shaped seeds.

- It attracts many pollinators, including bees and butterflies and are a great source of pollen for protein and nectar for carbohydrates and sugars, making them a very attractive feast for honeybees.

**Source:**

[https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/pastures/Html/White\\_clover.htm#Scientific%20name\(s\)](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/pastures/Html/White_clover.htm#Scientific%20name(s))

<https://bee-effect.co.za/white-clover-honey-bees/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trifolium\\_repens#:~:text=Trifolium%20repens%2C%20the%20white%20clover,previously%20referred%20to%20as%20Leguminosae\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trifolium_repens#:~:text=Trifolium%20repens%2C%20the%20white%20clover,previously%20referred%20to%20as%20Leguminosae).)

[https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/trifolium\\_repens.htm#:~:text=white%20clover%20\(Trifolium%20repens\)%20has,leaf%20forks%20\(i.e.%20axils\).](https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/trifolium_repens.htm#:~:text=white%20clover%20(Trifolium%20repens)%20has,leaf%20forks%20(i.e.%20axils).)

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/what\\_you\\_grow\\_clover\\_toxicity\\_and\\_horses](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/what_you_grow_clover_toxicity_and_horses)