



White Clover

O & T Guide W-19

Frank Sholedice, Research Associate &
Mark Renz, Extension Weed Scientist



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White clover, *Trifolium repens*, is a non-native perennial clover with creeping stems that root at the nodes and round flower heads with numerous small, narrow, white flowers. It is a common turf weed but has beneficial uses as forage and for erosion control. White clover is also known as Dutch clover and ladina clover.

The plant produces creeping stems and stolons that root at the nodes and can grow to about 12 in. long. Leaves grow on green, reddish, or whitish stems that emerge from the creeping main stems. Leaves are distinctly clover-shaped, with three leaflets each with a white band or crescent; each leaflet is 0.2-1.0 in. long.



Individual flower heads are round to oval in shape and 0.5-1.0 in. in diameter. Flower heads are found on separate stems that are longer than leaf stems. Flower heads consist of 40-100 small, narrow flowers. Individual flowers are 0.25-0.45

in. long, are white to pale pink in color, and often curve upwards. White clover seedlings produce a taproot, but mature plants produce fibrous roots and creeping stolons. The plants reproduce through seed or vegetatively through creeping stolons.





Management:

- Physical removal must remove as much of the root/rhizome system as possible
- Vigorous, healthy turf can compete with white clover and reduce infestations
- Herbicides are effective