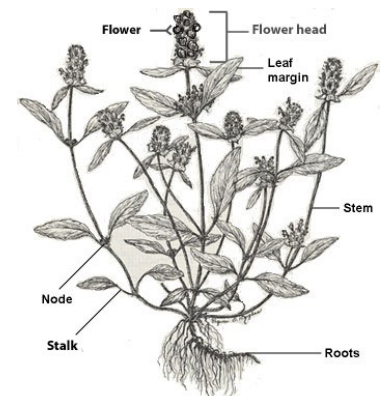


BROADLEAF WEEDS

TITLE:	CLOVER
LATIN NAME:	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
FAMILY:	Fabaceae
OVERALL DESCRIPTION:	
A prostrate, mat-forming herbaceous three-leaved perennial about four to six inches tall, with up to a 12-inch spread. Often found along roadsides, pastures, and lawns. As a legume, it is capable of fixing its own nitrogen which enables it to thrive in unfertilized areas.	
LIFE CYCLE	Perennial;
SEASONS OF GROWTH	Midspring through summer, into early autumn. Dormant in winter.
FLOWERS / SEEDHEAD	Flowers (white or pink) are produced throughout the summer as rounded heads at the end of flower-stalks.
LEAF SHAPE	Elliptic shapes. (round, oval)
LEAF EDGES	Slightly serrated (small teeth) along the edges.
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Tri-foliolate (three leaves per stem).
GROWTH HABIT	Prostrate and nonwoody.
FULL LEAF SIZE	Approximately ¼" long and 7/16" at its widest point, making it slightly longer than wide.
STEM CHARACTERISTICS	Smooth, no hairs.
ROOT	Fibrous taproot, but also spreads by creeping above-ground stems (stolons) that root at the nodes.
ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS	<p>Crescent or water mark on upper surface of leaflets. Is often mistaken for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Medic: an annual weed with similar shaped tri-foliolate leaves and <u>yellow, ball-like flowers</u> and Oxalis: a perennial heart-shaped tri-foliolate leaflets and <u>yellow, petal-like flowers</u>.



Photos: Penn State University



COMMON TYPICAL BROADLEAF WEED
STRUCTURE

TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH	Grows in many soil types. Likes well-drained, moist soil, but does well in dry/sandy soil. Can also grow in clays, and tolerates a wide range of soil acidity (pH 5.5 to 7.0)
KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER	While it is a common turfgrass weed, it can actually be considered beneficial for several reasons: 1) as a legume, it “fixes” nitrogen into poor soil which in turn benefits lawn turf; 2) white flowers will attract pollinators; and 3) it can provide food for wildlife such as rabbits. Tolerates close mowing. Most effective way to rid the lawn of clover is hand-pulling. Before starting a weed control program, homeowners should realize that complete eradication of the weed is not practical. A more practical approach is to manage (not eradicate) the weed by limiting infestation to a tolerable level.
CULTURAL CONTROL	Maintain dense turf. Hand pull or use an appropriate weeding tool.
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL	None.
CHEMICAL CONTROL	If choosing to chemically treat the lawn for white clover, look for products that contain the following any of the following active ingredients, as listed in the 2021 Virginia Tech Pest Management Guide (Table 5-9): 2,4-D + dicamba; 2,4-D + MCPP; 2,4-D + Dicamba + MCPP; 2,4-D +Dicamba + Triclopyr; 2,4-D + Dicamba + Penoxsulam. Preferred times to treat are spring and fall.
SOURCES OF INFORMATION	<p>VCE, Pest Management Guide (PMG) Home Grounds and Animals, 2021 https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf</p> <p>Virginia Tech Weed Guide https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/image/1481/LARGE/</p> <p>University of Maryland Extension, Weed Identification and Management https://extension.umd.edu/resource/clover</p> <p>Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home & Garden Information Center https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/white-clover/</p> <p><i>Weeds of The Northeast</i> Uva, Richard H., Joseph C. Neal, & Joseph M. DiTomaso. 1997. Cornell University Press</p>
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