



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: White clover
Scientific Name: *Trifolium repens*
Plant Family: Fabaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: White clover is a widespread weed. A common perennial herb, generally under 60 cm (2 ft), that produces stolons (horizontal shoots from base of plant that become creeping stems).

Leaves: Palmately compound, with three obovate leaflets each 0.5 to 3 cm.

Flowers: Grouped in terminal inflorescences that are 1 to 3 cm wide. Each flower is white to white-pink, a typical pea flower, and 5 to 12 mm wide.

Habitat: White clover grows in a wide range of habitats, from shaded woodlands to open meadows and disturbed roadsides. Thrives in full sunlight and moist, deep soils.

Bloom time: April to December

Information sources:

The Jepson manual: higher plants of California, University of California Press.

The PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)

USDA Forest Service, Fire Effects Information Service, (www.fs.fed.us/database/feis)



Photograph by
Patrick J. Alexander
@ USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database

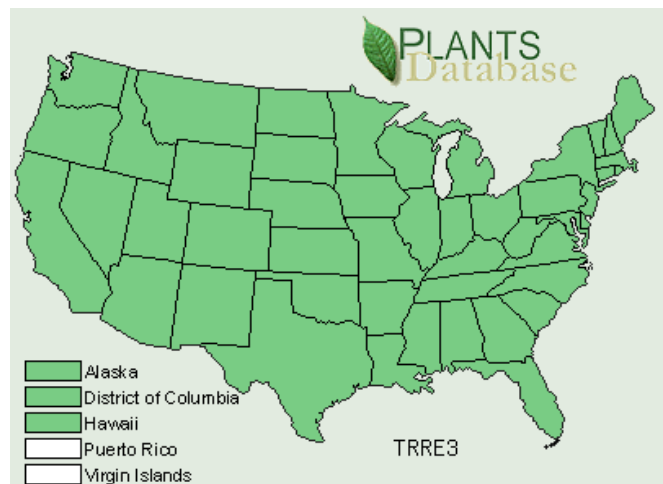


Photograph by William S. Justice @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Phenological observation:

First Flower

Distribution Area:



Did you know? *Trifolium repens*, like other members of the pea family, fix nitrogen (a limiting factor in plant growth). This makes clover an important agricultural and rangeland plant—by planting it with grasses it is possible to increase the grass yield. Clover leaves and flowers are also good forage for wildlife, such as moose, grizzly bear, white-tailed deer, and blue grouse. Clover is used widely by bees to produce honey.