

Clover Identification Activity

Using your observations, for each picture describe features of the white clover that might help identify it when you are looking in different locations.



White Clover leaf



White Clover Flower



White Clover Stem Structure (Stolon)

These four other common plants are often mistaken for white clover if flowering is not present.

Red Clover leaf



Red Clover Flower



Creeping Wood Sorrel



Black Medic



What are some differences in these species from the white clover on the first page? Be sure to note differences in both flowers and leaflets.

When we refer to "clovers" we're speaking of members of the genus *Trifolium* in the bean family, the Fabaceae. Around 300 species of *Trifolium* exist. The one that we are looking for is a very common citizen of weedy lawns. It's the white clover, *Trifolium repens*. Besides the fact that its flowers are white, one feature distinguishing white clover from many other clover species is that its stem creeps along the ground issuing roots from the stem as it goes. In the picture you can see white roots dangling from the horizontal stem. Most other clovers are upright or leaning, but not really creeping and rooting along the stem. Other than the white flower top, this is the most distinguishing feature of the white clover, and should be looked at carefully when choosing your specimens.