

White Clover

Trifolium repens

Plants · In flower May–Sep



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A low, creeping perennial rooting at the nodes, with trefoil leaves usually bearing a pale chevron, and rounded heads of small white — sometimes pink-tinged — pea flowers on long stalks. White clover is abundant in lawns, pasture, verges and playing fields throughout the Dumfries area, and tolerates close mowing and heavy grazing.

BEHAVIOUR

The florets are much shorter-tubed than red clover, so honey bees and short-tongued bumblebees can work them easily — which is why white clover is one of the main sources of British honey. Creeping stems root as they go, letting it survive mowing and trampling. Leaving clover in a lawn is one of the simplest ways to feed pollinators through the summer.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Peas (Fabaceae)
HEIGHT	10–30 cm, creeping
STATUS	Native; abundant in grassland and lawns

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