

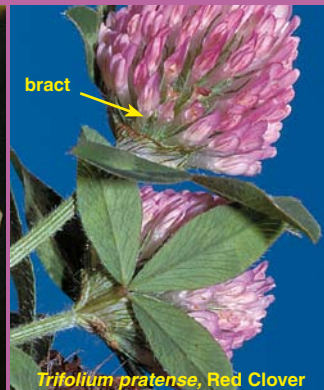
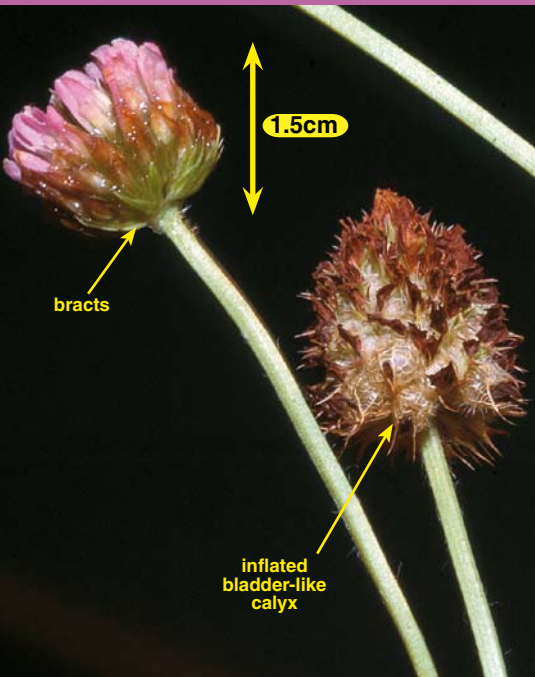
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SALTdeck

STRAWBERRY CLOVER

Trifolium fragiferum

L6
LEGUME



STRAWBERRY CLOVER

Trifolium fragiferum

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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L6

Family: Fabaceae.

Description: Prostrate creeping perennial with stems to 50 cm long, usually rooting from nodes. Leaves with 3 leaflets, margins with small teeth. Stipules to 1.5 cm long, spear-shaped, membranous (see photo). Flowers whitish to pink. Seed pod with 1–2 brown seeds. Flowers spring to summer.

Key features: Leaflets borne on stalks of equal length. Leaves and flowers on long stalks. May be confused with Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* which has large bracts around the base of the flowerhead whereas Strawberry Clover does not (see photo).

Value: Grows readily in waterlogged, poorly drained, saline and alkaline soils. Is adapted to pH ranging from 4.8–8.0 (CaCl₂). As a fodder plant it may form dense stands and has performed better than Lucerne and White Clover in a variety of soils in southern Victoria where it persisted five seasons under grazing.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Strawberry Clover is one of the most waterlogging tolerant legumes available. It shows moderate tolerance to salinity and in some areas it can be a good companion legume for Tall Wheatgrass *Thinopyrum ponticum*.

Notes: Native to Europe, now variably spread over the world in temperate latitudes.

References: *Pasture Legumes for Temperate Farming Systems (Ute Guide)*, 2004. *Genus Trifolium*, Zohary and Heller, 1984. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1996.

