

Legumes

Birdfoot trefoil

Lotus corniculatus L. (LOC06)

Species description: Birdfoot trefoil is an introduced perennial forb. It is usually described as a forage species.

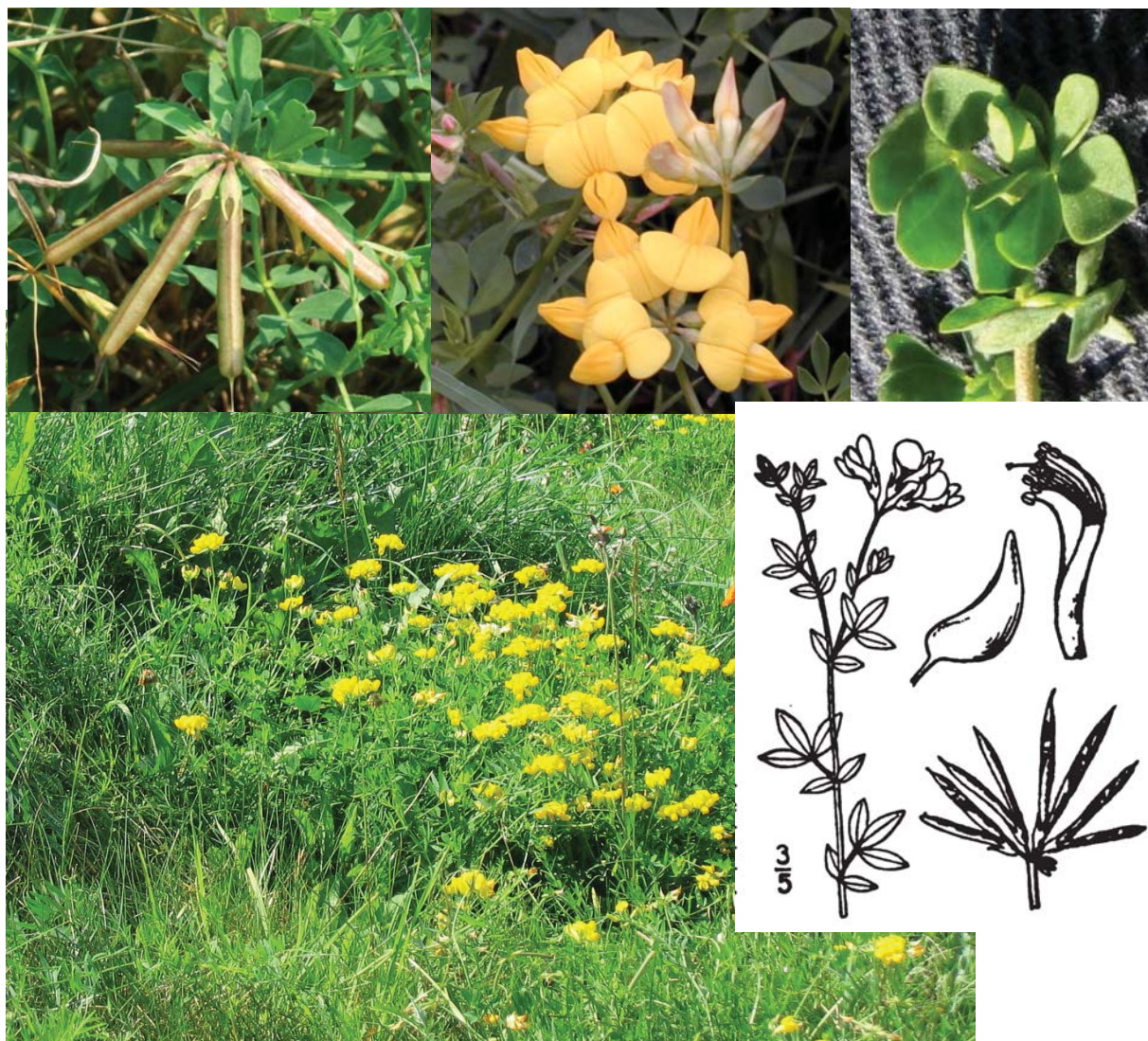
Identifying characteristics: Yellow flowers; three leaflets; blue-green leaves with no teeth. Cluster of fruit looks like a bird's foot.

Similar species: Alfalfa.

Abundance in the Northeast: Birdfoot trefoil was found on 36% of the farms sampled and 33% of the pastures. Its average cover was 4.5% where present (range 0.1 - 27%).



Illustration 49: Birdfoot trefoil



Black medick

Medicago lupulina L. (MELU)

Species description: Black medick is an introduced annual or perennial forb. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: Trailing plant; leaflet margins toothed; center leaflet has longer stalk than other two; small yellow flowers; clusters of black seeds;

Similar species: clovers; birdsfoot refoil; oxalis

Abundance in the Northeast: Black medick was found on 45% of the farms sampled and 27% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.4% where present (range 0.1 - 11.6%).



Alfalfa

Medicago sativa L. (MESA)

Species description: Alfalfa is an introduced annual or perennial forb. It is usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: 3-5 toothed leaflets; stipule; purple flowers.

Similar species: Birdsfoot trefoil; black medick

Abundance in the Northeast: Alfalfa was found on 52% of the farms sampled and 41% of the pastures. Its average cover was 8.7% where present (range 0.1 - 82%).



Illustration 51: Alfalfa



Sweet clover

Melilotus officinalis (L.) Lam. (MEOF)

Species description: Sweet clover is an introduced annual, biennial or perennial forb. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: flowers 2-4" long; leaflets finely toothed; fragrant flowers and leaves.

Similar species: all sweet clovers

Abundance in the Northeast: Sweet clover was found on 7% of the farms sampled and 4% of the pastures. Its average cover was 10.1% where present (range 0.1 - 20%).



Illustration 52: Sweet clover



Rabbitfoot clover

Trifolium arvense L. (TRAR4)

Species description: Rabbitfoot clover is an introduced annual forb. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: stems are soft, reddish and hairy; long narrow leaflets hairy on top and bottom; white to pale pink

Similar species: other clovers and prostrate spurge

Abundance in the Northeast: Rabbitfoot clover was found on 2% of the farms sampled and 2% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0% where present (range 0 - 0%).



Illustration 53: Rabbitfoot clover



Hop clover

Trifolium aureum Pollich (TRAU2)

Species description: Hop clover is an introduced annual or biennial forb. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: trifoliate with stalked central leaflet; longer narrow leaves; yellow flowers numerous in rounded heads; flowers dry, turn brown and remain on plant.

Similar species: sweet clover; black medic; rabbitfoot clover

Abundance in the Northeast: Hop clover was found on 16% of the farms sampled and 10% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.8% where present (range 0.1 - 3.5%).



Illustration 54: Hop clover



Alsike clover

Trifolium hybridum L. (TRHY)

Species description: Alsike clover is an introduced annual or perennial forb. It is usually described as a forage species.

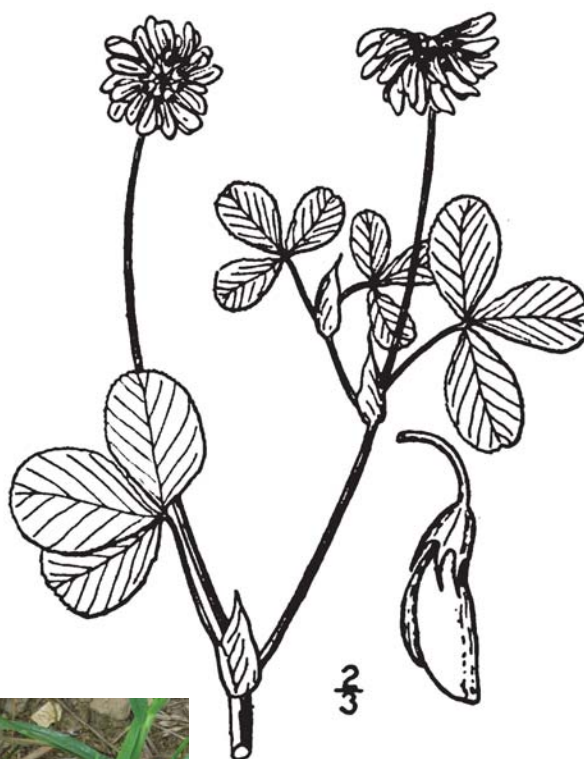
Identifying characteristics: clumping upright form; hairless leaves, longer than white clover; no stalked central leaflet; pinkish to white flowers.

Similar species: White clover; red clover.

Abundance in the Northeast: Alsike clover was found on 32% of the farms sampled and 24% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.8% where present (range 0.1 - 8.5%).



Illustration 55: Alsike clover



Red clover

Trifolium pratense L. (TRPR2)

Species description: Red clover is an introduced biennial or perennial forb. It is usually described as a forage species.

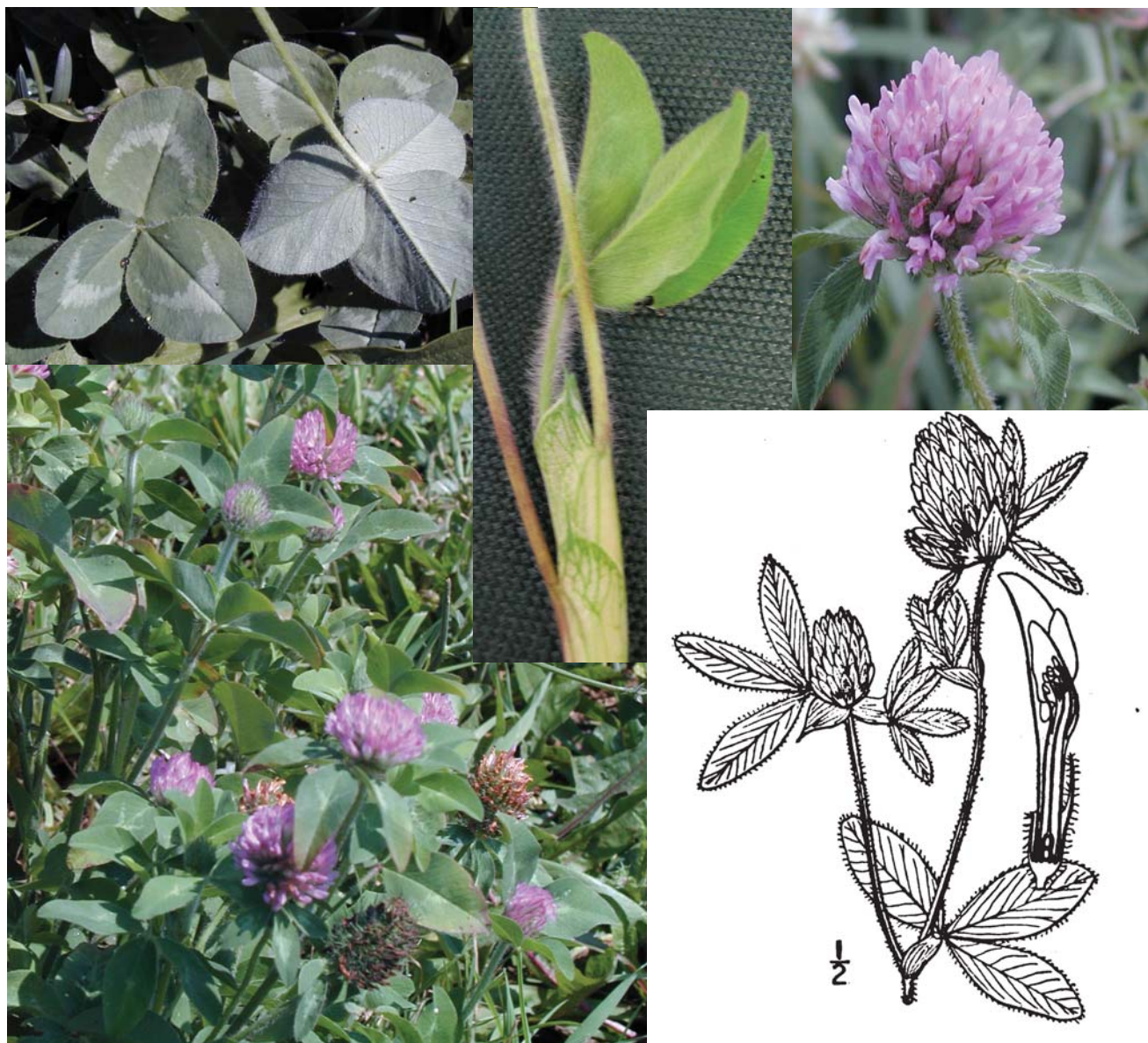
Identifying characteristics: clumping upright form; hairy rounded leaves and stems; stipule; usually blotched with white "V" in leaf; red to purple flowers on stalkless heads.

Similar species: White and Alsike clover have hairless leaves.

Abundance in the Northeast: Red clover was found on 98% of the farms sampled and 95% of the pastures. Its average cover was 3.8% where present (range 0.1 - 45.5%).



Illustration 56: Red clover



White clover

Trifolium repens L. (TRRE3)

Species description: White clover is an introduced perennial forb. It is usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: low spreading form; hairless rounded leaves; no stipule; rooting at nodes; white flowers.

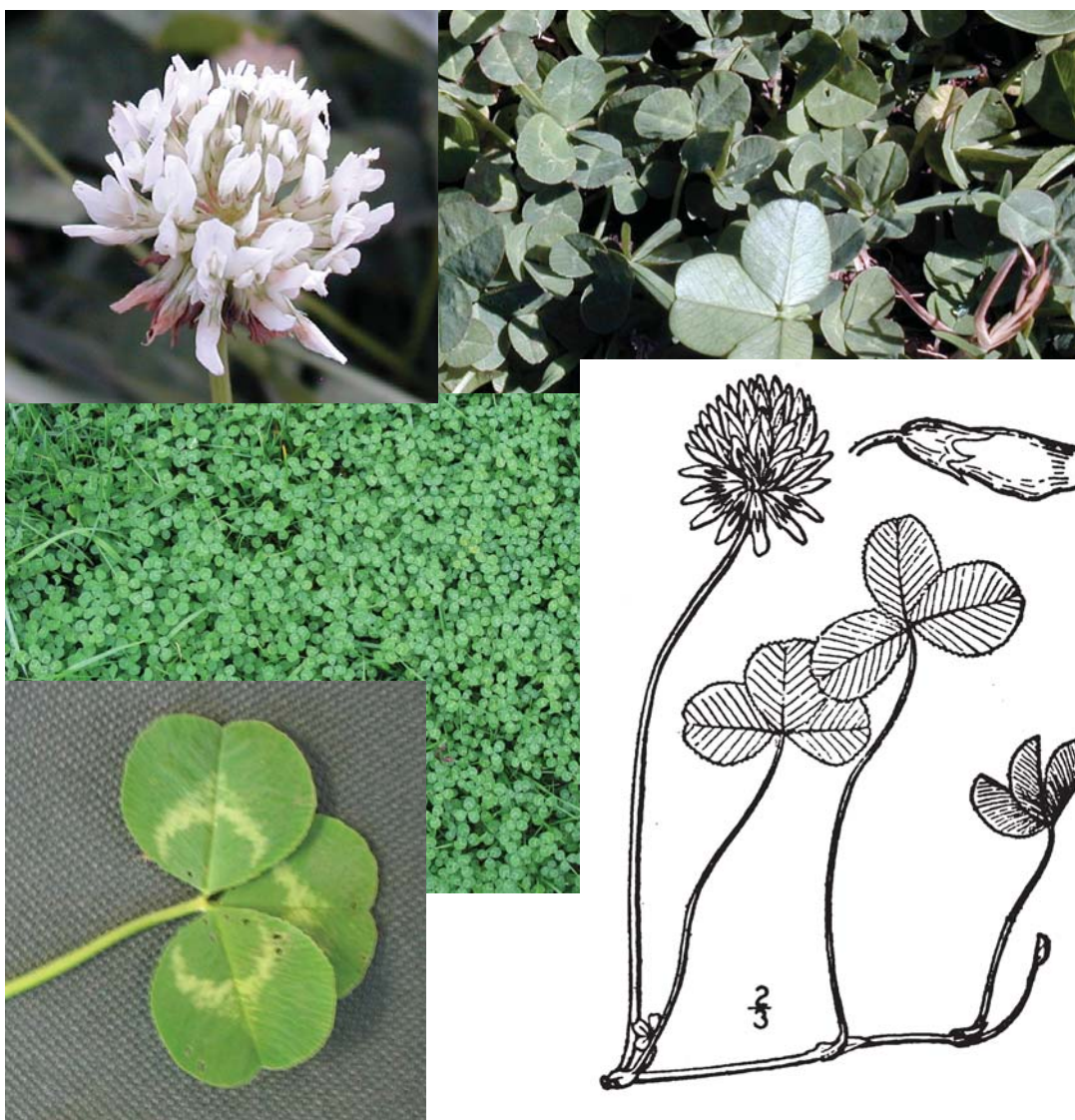
Similar species: Red clover has hairy leaves; Alsike clover;

Kura clover (*Trifolium ambiguum* M. Bieb.) is sometimes planted. It is very similar, with hairless leaves and white flowers, but has football-shaped leaflets.

Abundance in the Northeast: White clover was found on 100% of the farms sampled and 98% of the pastures. Its average cover was 15.3% where present (range 0.1 – 72.5%).



Illustration 57: White clover



Vetch

Vicia sp. (VICIA)

Species description: Vetch is an introduced annual or perennial forb. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: Vine-like; pinnately-compound leaves; older leaves develop tendrils; purple flowers.

Similar species: all vetch species

Abundance in the Northeast: Vetch was found on 34% of the farms sampled and 27% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.1% where present (range 0.1 - 11.2%).



Illustration 58: Vetch

