

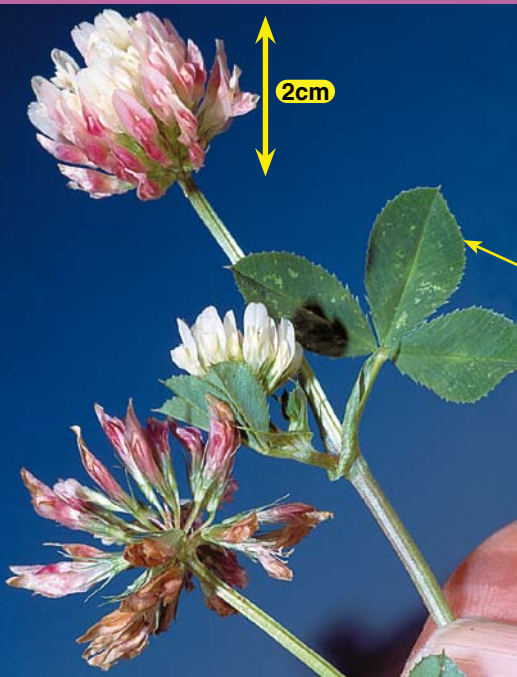
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SALTdeck

BALANSA CLOVER

Trifolium michelianum

L1
LEGUME



BALANSA CLOVER

Trifolium michelianum

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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L1

Alternative name: Annual White Clover.

Family: Fabaceae.

Description: Erect or semi-erect extensively branched annual forming dense swards to about 50 cm tall. Stems hairless and hollow when elongated. Leaflets club-shaped (obovate) or oblong, finely toothed with a point (mucro) at the top of the leaflet. Stipules green to red to burgundy (see photo). Flowerhead of many white to pink flowers; flowers spring to summer.

Key features: May be confused with White Clover *Trifolium repens*, but White Clover is a perennial and does not thrive in saline areas. Also may be confused with Gland Clover *Trifolium glanduliferum*, but Gland Clover has glands on the leaflets and green stipules. May also be confused with Persian Clover *Trifolium resupinatum* and Woolly Clover *Trifolium tomentosum* that grow in saline situations. To separate the species see SALTdeck cards covering these species.

Value: An excellent standing feed, or makes good hay. Makes good summer feed. Despite low to moderate salt tolerance, it has reasonable adaptation to many waterlogged, saline environments.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Excellent waterlogging tolerance but low to moderate salt tolerance. Not suited to deep sandy soils.

Notes: Native of the Mediterranean region. There are a number of cultivars and varieties. Susceptible to redlegged earth mite.

References: *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1994. *Saltland Pastures in Australia*, Barrett-Lennard, 2003.

