

## White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

This is a creeping plant which is particularly common on clay non-acid soils. The leaves are produced on long stalks and consist of three rounded toothed, leaflets. The flowers are white or rosy in colour and are produced between the Spring and Autumn. White clover is widespread in pastures and meadows, frequently cut grass verges and lawns. It is absent from tall grass. This plant is highly variable species with many varieties and over 70 commercial cultivars. White clover has been an important constituent of food since the 17th century. Its main benefit is that it can convert atmospheric Nitrogen into plant usable form, reduces N fertiliser use and improves soil structure. As this weed can grow between and around the grass leaves it is almost impossible to remove by hand. The seeds it produces can last 20 years in the soil.



**CONTROL** of this weed is never easy and, although most lawn herbicides will have some effect, white clover is resistant to them. For best control only use the active ingredients ioxynil and/or Mecoprop-P and these will need repeated treatments for a number of years before good results are seen.