

## *Trifolium repens*

**System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Fabales	Fabaceae

**Common name** ladino clover (English), dutch clover (English), white clover (English), trébol blanco (Spanish), trevo-branco (Portuguese), white dutch clover (English), ladino white clover (English), Weißklee (German), trèfle blanc (French), trèfle rampant (French)

**Synonym** *Trifolium repens*, L. var. *nigricans* G. Don  
*Trifolium repens*, L. var. *repens*  
*Amoria repens*, (L.) C. Presl  
*Trifolium biasoletti*, Steud. & Hochst.  
*Trifolium macrorrhizum*, Boiss.  
*Trifolium occidentale*, Coombe  
*Trifolium repens*, var. *rubescens* hort.  
*Trifolium repens*, var. *biasoletti*  
*Trifolium repens*, var. *giganteum*  
*Trifolium repens*, var. *latum*  
*Trifolium repens*, var. *macrorrhizum*  
*Trifolium repens*, var. *pallescens*  
*Trifolium repens*, var. *atropurpureum* hort.

## Similar species

**Summary** *Trifolium repens* is a perennial legume that originated in Europe/East Asia and has become one of the most widely distributed legumes in the world. It has naturalized in most of North America, Central and South America, Australia and New Zealand.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

## Species Description

*Trifolium repens* has a prostrate, stoloniferous growth habit with leaves that are composed of three leaflets, which sometimes have a crescent-shaped mark on the upper surface. Leaves and roots develop along the stolon at the nodes. The flower heads, each consisting of 40 to 100 florets which are white in colour, are borne on long stalks from the leaf axils (USDA-NRCS, 2010b).

## Lifecycle Stages

*Trifolium repens* is a perennial legume (Caradus, 1994).

## Uses

*Trifolium repens* is reported to contain both poison and healing abilities. Its leaves contain the chemical genistein which is reported to have ethnobotanical properties. *T. repens* is also used as a forage crop.

## Habitat Description

*Trifolium repens*, in the United States, thrives best in a cool, moist climate in soils with ample lime, phosphate, and potash. In general, *T. repens* is best adapted to clay and silt soils in humid and irrigated areas but also grows successfully on sandy soils with a high water table or irrigated droughty soils when adequately fertilized. *T. repens* seldom roots deeper than 2 feet, which makes it adapted to shallow soils when adequate moisture is available (USDA-NRCS, 2010b). In New Zealand, *T. repens* is frost tolerant down to -8 degrees Celsius (Caradus, 1994). In Australia it is common between the alpine and montane areas of the Australian Alps. It can be found up just over 2000m altitude and was introduced to help reduce the impacts of soil erosion (Johnston & Pickering, 2001). On the Amsterdam Islands it has been found to be a host for exotic aphid species, which could potentially affect endemic species (Hulle *et al*, 2010).

## Management Info

Two varieties of *Trifolium repens*; *T. repens* L. var. *nigricans* G. Don and *T. repens* L. var. *repens*, are known to be established alien species and/or found in the Japanese wild. Because of this, mitigation could be undertaken under the Invasive Alien Species Act, 2004 (Mito & Uesugi, 2004). However *T. repens* is so widespread within natural vegetation in the Australian Alps, that control is considered impracticable (MacDougall *et al*, 2005). Pickering & Hill (2007) further establish this by mentioning that although the feasibility of controlling vegetative regeneration is moderate, there is little chance of controlling the seed bank.

## Principal source:

**Compiler:** IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

## Review:

**Publication date:** 2010-06-08

## ALIEN RANGE

[2] AUSTRALIA  
[1] CENTRAL AMERICA  
[1] FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)  
[1] GREENLAND  
[1] MEXICO  
[1] SOUTH AMERICA  
  
[1] TAIWAN  
[1] WEST INDIES

[1] CANADA  
[1] CHILE  
[1] FRENCH SOUTHERN TERRITORIES  
[1] JAPAN  
[1] NEW ZEALAND  
[1] SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS  
[2] UNITED STATES

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

19 references found for *Trifolium repens*

### Management information

[Auld, Bruce; Hirohiko Morita; Tomoko Nishida; Misako Ito and Peter Michael, 2003. Shared exotica: Plant invasions of Japan and south eastern Australia. \*Cunninghamia\* \(2003\) 8\(1\): 147-152](#)

**Summary:** Available from: [http://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/58904/Cun8Au147.pdf](http://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/58904/Cun8Au147.pdf) [Accessed 28 June 2010]  
[Champion, P. D. and P. N. Reeves, 2009. Factors causing dune ephemeral wetlands to be vulnerable to weed invasion. \*DOC Research & Development Series\* 310](#)

**Summary:** Available from: <http://conservation.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/drds310entire.pdf> [Accessed 28 June 2010]



# GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Trifolium repens*

[IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group \(ISSG\), 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.](#)

**Summary:** This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

[Mito, Toshikazu and Tetsuro Uesugi, 2004. Invasive Alien Species in Japan: The Status Quo and the New Regulation for Prevention of their Adverse Effects. Global Environmental Research 8\(2\)/2004: 171-191](#)

**Summary:** Available from: <http://www.airies.or.jp/publication/ger/pdf/08-02-08.pdf> [Accessed 28 June 2010]

## General information

[Bear, Roxana; Hill, Wendy; Pickering, Catherine M., 2007. Distribution and diversity of exotic plant species in montane to alpine areas of Kosciuszko National Park. Cunninghamia. 9\(4\). 2006. 559-570.](#)

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Caradus, J. R., 1994. Frost tolerance of *Trifolium* species. New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research, 1994, Vol. 38: 157-162

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Hull, Maurice; Evelyne Turpeau; Sylvie Hudaverdian; Bernard Chaubet; Yannick Outreman and Marc Lebouvier, 2010. Aphids and associated natural enemies on Ile Amsterdam and Ile Saint-Paul, Southern Indian Ocean. Antarctic Science

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System \(ITIS\), 2010. Trifolium repens L.](#)

**Summary:** Available from: [http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search\\_topic=TSN&search\\_value=26206](http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=26206) [Accessed 28 June 2010]

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[Miyawaki, Shigenari and Izumi Washitani, 2003. Invasive Alien Plant Species in Riparian Areas of Japan: The Contribution of Agricultural Weeds, Revegetation Species and Aquacultural Species. Global Environmental Research 8\(1\)/2004: 89-101](#)

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Philcox, D., 1962. Recent Records for the Flora of South Georgia. Kew Bulletin, Vol. 16, No. 2 (1962), pp. 243-245

Pickering, Catherine and Wendy Hill, 2007. Roadside Weeds of the Snowy Mountains, Australia. Mountain Research and Development Vol 27 No 4 Nov 2007

Swenson, Ulf; Tod F. Stuessey; Marcelo Baeza and Daniel, J. Crawford., 1997. New and Historical Plant Introductions, and Potential Pests in the Juan Fernandez Islands, Chile! Pacific Science (1997), vol. 51, no. 3: 233-253

[USDA-ARS, 2010. Taxon: Trifolium repens L. National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - \(GRIN\) \[Online Database\]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.](#)

**Summary:** Available from: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?300625> [Accessed 28 June 2010]

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**Summary:** Available from: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=TRRE3> [Accessed 28 June 2010]

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