

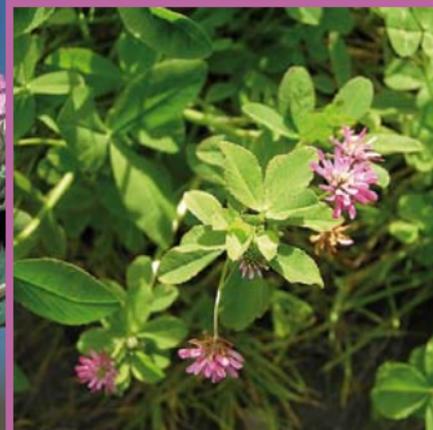
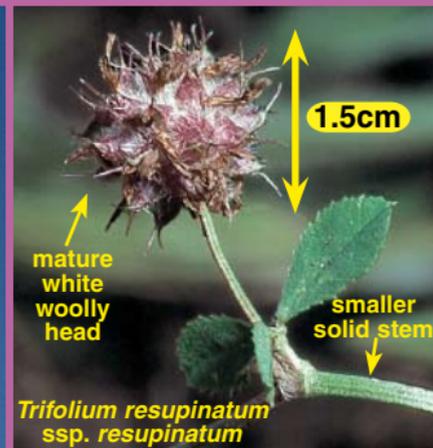
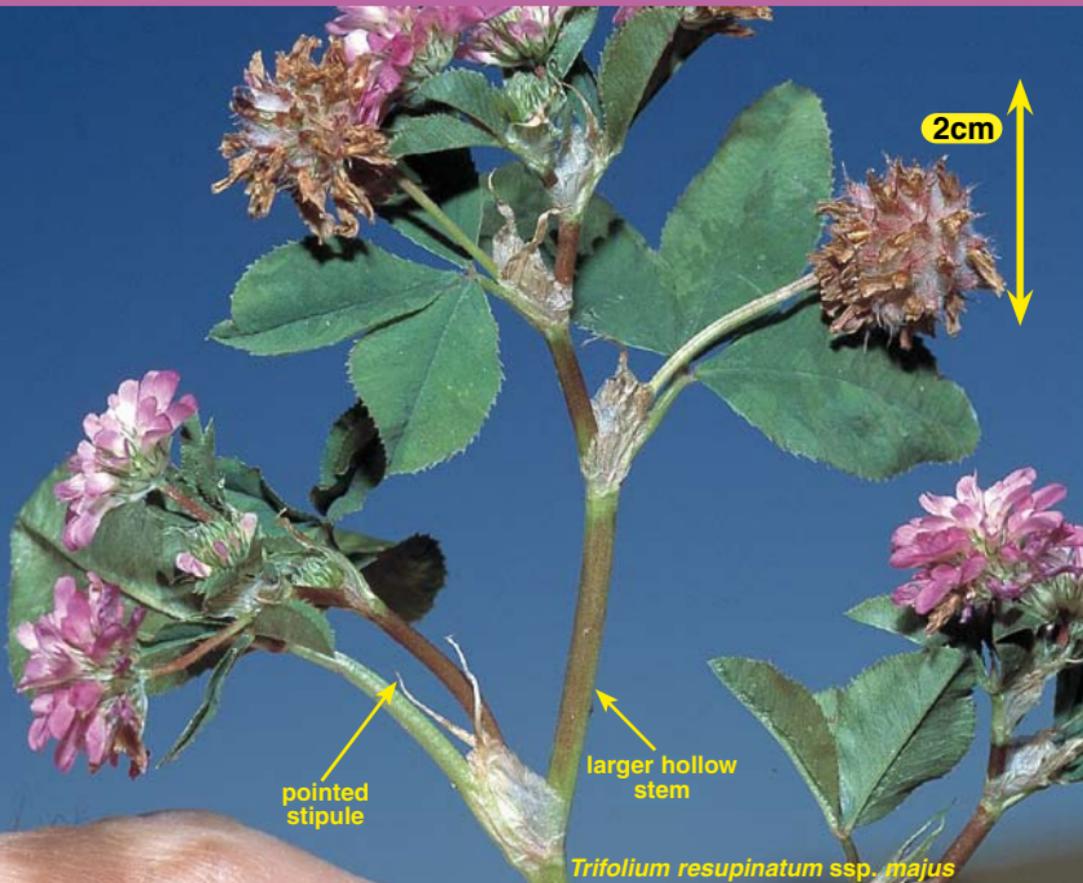
© photos G. Sainty, J. R. Hosking & H. Norman

SALTdeck

PERSIAN CLOVER

Trifolium resupinatum

L5
LEGUME



PERSIAN CLOVER

Trifolium resupinatum

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

© AWI & CRC Salinity 2006

L5

Alternative name: Shaftal Clover. **Family:** Fabaceae.

Description: Erect or semi-erect branched annual forming dense swards to about 40 cm tall. Leaves trifoliate, leaflets with a toothed margin (see photo), leaflets from less than 2 cm to more than 3 cm in different sub species. Flowerheads on long stalks, pink to violet maturing to white woolly seedheads 1–1.5 cm wide. Seeds about 1 mm wide, mostly brownish and vary in colour depending on the cultivar, with 1–2 million seeds/kg. Flowers mostly spring.

Key features: Pointed stipule (see photo). There are two sub species. Sub species *majus* has thick, hollow stems to 80 cm long (see photo), is soft seeded, and is generally larger than subspecies *resupinatum* which has solid (not hollow) stems mostly less than 40 cm long and is hard seeded.

Value: Highly palatable and digestible. Suitable for hay and silage production, but this varies with subspecies and cultivars.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: High tolerance to waterlogging. Low to moderate tolerance to salinity, but this varies with the subspecies and the cultivar.

Notes: Native of Europe, Middle East, western Asia and northern Africa. Tolerates a pH range of 5.0–8. Best suited to clay soils but will grow in most soil types. When seasonal conditions permit, late maturing cultivars extend pasture growth further into late spring. The soft seeded cultivars require re-sowing annually.

References: *Pasture Legumes for Temperate Farming*, Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia and GRDC, 2004. *Genus Trifolium*, Zohary and Heller, 1984. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1996. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 2, 1991. *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop & Toelken (eds), 4th edition, Vol. 2, 1977.

