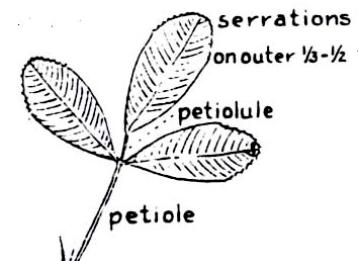
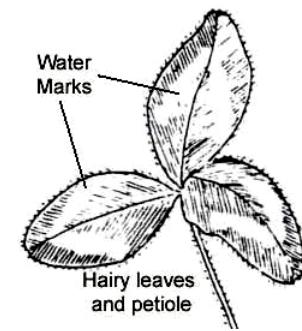
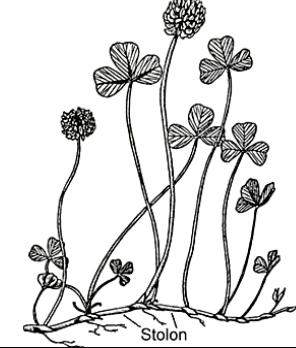
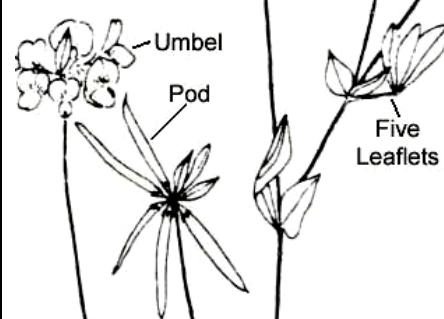
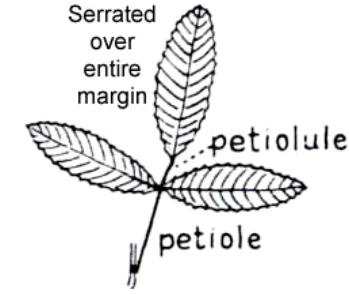
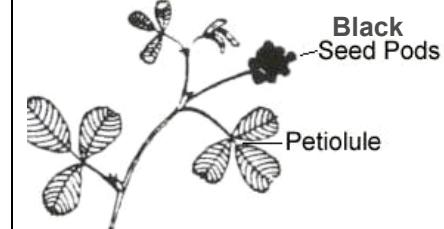


Characteristics of Forage Legumes Found in the Northeast U.S.

Species	Growth Habit	Leaf Characteristics	Inflorescence	Image
Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i> Tall, upright growth; Regrowth from crown area; Deep taproot; Flowers usually blue to purple; some types are yellow	 Crown buds		 Raceme inflorescence	
Red clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i> Tall, upright growth; Regrowth from crown area; <u>Types:</u> Medium Mammoth			 Compact head with reddish purple florets	
White clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> Prostrate creeping growth due to stolons; Limited upward branching. <u>Types:</u> Small Intermediate Large (Ladino type)		 Inverted "V" shaped water marks <u>but not always</u> ; leaflets and petiole are smooth (not hairy)	 Compact head with white florets	
Alsike clover <i>Trifolium hybridum</i> Tall, upright growth; Regrowth from crown area; branched shoot growth; branched taproot; Often lodges;		 Trifoliolate leaves; no hairs (smooth); leaf margins finely serrated	 Compact head with white to pink florets	

Species	Growth Habit	Leaf Characteristics	Inflorescence	Image
Birdsfoot trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> Intermediate to short height depending on type; Types: Short (Empire) Tall (Viking)	 Crown at base	 Mature plant has five leaflets - three at terminal end and two at base; Leaflets smooth, no hair	 An umbel of 2 to 9 florets; Gets its name from the shape of the seed pods	
Sweetclover <i>Melilotus spp.</i> Tall, upright growth; Biennial with deep taproot Types: White <i>M. alba</i> Yellow <i>M. officinalis</i>		 Trifoliolate leaves with longer petiolule on terminal leaflet; No hairs	 Dense raceme with white or yellow flowers;	
Black medic <i>Medicago lupulina</i> Short to intermediate growing annual often found in pasture; Branched taproot;		 Trifoliolate leaves with longer petiolule	 Seed head with black pods;	
Common vetch <i>Vicia sativa</i> Weak stemmed vines that depend on tendrils to hold upright.	 Compound leaves with 10 to 14 leaflets.	 Tendrils at end of leaflet	 Raceme reddish purple flowers.	

Developed by Sid Bosworth, Extension Forage Agronomist, University of Vermont, 6/04