

NATIVE PERENNIALS



Prairie Clover, White 'Antelope'

Dalea candida 'Antelope'

Native. NRCS selection from Stark County, ND. Fine-leafed legume with white flowers which appear at tips of slender stems. Needs good drainage and tolerates dry, sandy, and gravelly soils. Good for native pollinators. Grows 1-2.5 ft. tall.

Description: This perennial legume is mostly 1 to 2-1/2 feet tall with few to several upright stems arising from a woody, much branched taproot. Numerous small white flowers in dense, cylindrical heads are produced in July and August. Odd-pinnate, alternate leaves consist of 3 to 9 narrow leaflets with glandular dots on the underside.

Distribution/Habitat: White prairie clover, represented by two varieties, is widely distributed from the southern portions of the Canadian prairie provinces to Tennessee and Texas, northern Mexico, Utah, and Montana. It is well represented in the northern Great Plains but is more common in the eastern parts of the Dakotas and Nebraska. Regionally it occupies open woodlands and prairie habitats, especially along rocky or gravelly hillsides.

Comments: White prairie clover is nutritious to livestock, often decreasing with grazing pressure. In addition to their value as forage, prairie clovers fix nitrogen, making it available for associated grasses. Prairie clovers are one of the most important groups of legumes in native grasslands of the Great Plains. Sharp-tailed grouse feed on prairie clovers in the fall. American Indians used white and purple prairie clovers interchangeably to some extent for food; roots were eaten raw and leaves were dried for tea. Plains Indians also used roots from these plants in rituals to prevent disease.

Credit: James E. Johnson & Gary E. Larson, Grassland Plants of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains. SDSU, Brookings, SD. B-566 (rev.) August 1999. Page 178.

Photo Credit: SDSU Ag Experiment Station

