

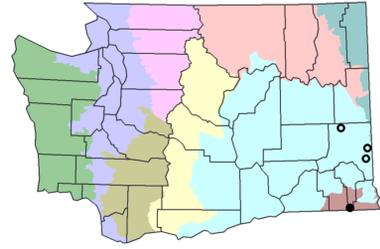
Trifolium douglasii House

Douglas' clover

Fabaceae - pea family

status: State Endangered, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G2 / S1



General Description: Nonrhizomatous (occasionally reported to be rhizomatous) perennial from a thick taproot, usually hairless; stems generally several, erect, simple or with a few branches, 4-8 dm tall. Leaves compound; leaflets 3, linear to oblong-elliptic, 4-10 cm long, the margins very finely serrated to spiny. Petioles usually shorter than the stipules. Stipules oblong-lanceolate, 2-7 cm long, adnate to the petiole most of their length, the margins finely serrated.

Floral Characteristics: Heads axillary as well as terminal and long-pedunculate, spherical to ovoid-cylindric, about 3 cm thick, as long to nearly twice as long, with 50-200 flowers, and not subtended by an involucre. Flowers erect, spreading, or the lowest reflexed, 14-20 mm long, reddish purple. Calyx 1/2 to 3/5 as long as the corolla, hairless, the tube with 17-25 nerves. Upper pair of calyx teeth broader than the lower 3 and usually conspicuously curved downward. Sinuses between the lateral teeth deeper than that between the upper pair. Blooms June to July.

Fruits: Pods usually 1-seeded.

Identification Tips: Distinguished from other species of *Trifolium* by its perennial habit, flowers lacking a true involucre, 3 leaflets, and hairless calyx tube generally with 20 prominent nerves. The plants are usually over 5 dm tall, and the flower heads are elongate, usually 3-5 cm long but not as thick.

Range: Historically from Spokane Co., WA, to Baker Co., OR, east to adjacent ID. Currently known from Garfield Co., WA, central ID, and Umatilla and Union cos., OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist to wet open meadows, forested wetlands, and stream banks. The extant site in WA is at 1190 m (3900 ft) elevation. *T. douglasii* is a facultative wetland species; it is probably well adapted to periodic flooding of its habitat.

Comments: *T. douglasii* habitat has been severely impacted by conversion to agricultural uses and invasion of exotic grass species. Several historical sites in Whitman Co. have been converted to agricultural uses. This species is rare throughout its range.



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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