

Trifolium incarnatum ssp. *molinerii* (Balbis ex Hornem.) Syme

Long-headed Clover

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Fabaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

Habit

Herb (annual).

Habitat

Cliff-slopes in open grassland that are severely droughted in summer.

Reasons for decline

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	Lizard peninsula, W. Cornwall	2	100- 36,000

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 St Michael's Mount (NT)
- 2 Duchy College
- 3 Trebah Garden Trust
- 4 Glendurgan Gardens (NT)
- 5 Trelissick (NT)
- 6 Tregothnan Botanic Garden
- 7 Eden Project
- 8 Lilac Cottage
- 9 Tregrehan

Gardens of specialisation on family Fabaceae or genus *Trifolium*

None

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Plants For A Future for species *Trifolium incarnatum*

- Propagation

Pre-soak the seed for 12 hours in warm water and then sow in spring to early summer in situ. The seed can also be sown in early autumn as a winter green manure.

- Cultivation

Succeeds in a moist, well-drained circum-neutral soil in full sun. Succeeds in poor soils. The ssp. *molinerli* is the form of this species that is native to Britain, whilst *ssp. incarnatum* is naturalized in S. Britain and is the form grown as a green manure crop. It grows well in an apple orchard, the trees will produce tastier fruit that stores better. It should not be grown with camellias or gooseberries because it harbours a mite that can cause fruit drop in the gooseberries and premature budding in the camellias. Fairly resistant to 'clover rot'. This species has a symbiotic relationship with certain soil bacteria, these bacteria form nodules on the roots and fix atmospheric nitrogen.

Some of this nitrogen is utilized by the growing plant but some can also be used by other plants growing nearby. Buttercups growing nearby depress the growth of the nitrogen bacteria by means of a root exudate. When removing plant remains at the end of the growing season, it is best to only remove the aerial parts of the plant, leaving the roots in the ground to decay and release their nitrogen.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

Cornwall's Biodiversity Vol 1, 2 and 3.

Habitat Management

The grazed sites are under conservation management and populations seem secure in these.

Protected sites with records for *T. incarnatum* ssp. *molinerii* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- Plants For A Future Database: http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Trifolium+incarnatum