

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Melilotus*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

*Melilotus* is derived from Greek *meli-* (honey) and *lotos* (lotus) components.

Members of this family *Leguminosae* absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots, they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it), to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.

Warning – animals, eg. cattle.

White melilot *Melilotus albus*

Cattle can be poisoned from eating spoiled fodder.

Warning – humans.

Small melilot *Melilotus indicus*

Large doses of the dried plant are said to be able to cause nausea, vomiting, vertigo, depressed heart action and to inhibit blood clotting.

Warning – animals, eg. cattle; humans.

Ribbed melilot *Melilotus officinalis*

All parts of ribbed melilot are potentially poisonous. Large doses can cause vomiting, haemorrhaging, diarrhoea and death.

It can be poisonous for some animals, primarily cattle..