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Melilotus alba

[Synonyms : *Melilotus officinalis*, *Melilotus vulgaris*, *Sertula alba*]

WHITE MELILOT is an annual or biennial. Native to Asia and Europe it has tiny pea-like, sweet scented white flowers.

It is also known as Bokhara clover, Cabaul clover, Cabul clover, Honey, Honey clover, Honey lotus, *Komonica biela* (Slovak), *Komonice bílá* (Czech), *Meillionen Tair Dalen Gwyn* (Welsh), Melilot, Sweet clover, Sweet lucerne, Sweet melilot, Sweet-scented clover, Sweet white clover, Trebol, Tree clover, *Valkomesikkä* (Finnish), *Vit sötväppling* (Swedish), *Wachaga iyechecha* (Dakota North American Indian), *Weisser Honigklee* (German), *Weisser Steinklee* (German), White melilot clover, White melilotus, White millet, White sweet clover, Wild trifoli, and *Witstinkklawer* (Afrikaans).

Warning – cattle can be poisoned from eating spoiled fodder.

Alba means ‘white’ with reference to the flowers.

White melilot’s greatest uses are as fodder, as a honey plant and as ground cover for green manure. (Authorities note that the fodder does require some care to ensure it is unspoiled.)

In the United States it has been used locally to repel moths from clothing while at the same time perfuming it. It has also been used there to flavour cheese, and tobacco.

Medicinally, it has been used rarely except for past homoeopathic remedies, and in Middle America for use as a stimulant. It tends now to be found only as an ingredient in ointments that encourage the healing of skin complaints.