

ANOTHER  
HERB HERBERT  
FACT SHEET

SPECIAL INTEREST HERBS

# DRAGONS BLOOD

Trifolium repens



## DESCRIPTION

Dragons Blood is classified as a herbaceous perennial, but mostly evergreen. This Japanese bred Clover has striking blood red droplets on a fantastically patterned trifoliate leaf of cranberry-red, creamy white variegated and pale green leaf. Globular white flowers bloom for much of the year. The flowers are attractive to bees. Repens in Latin means creeping. <http://www.paghat.com/dragonsbloodclover.html> writes an interesting article on their experience growing this little gem. Note; Herb Herbert does market this plant as a clover. We do understand the false fear that may be caused by confusion with some plants that are invasive though. Oxalis is more of an invasive plant that could be mistaken for a clover.



## USES

This species was traditionally used to treat colds, fevers and coughs. It's an extremely attractive garden perennial and spreading ground cover for small areas and rock gardens. Also an interesting addition to container grown plants of any description. Clover is a favorite of the honey bee and they don't like to waste time sticking their tongues into a flower that some other bee has already emptied of the sugary nectar. The clover helps by signalling to the bees which florets are empty. Florets that have been visited hang down and turn brown, full ones stand up, amazing.



## CULTIVATION

This is an excellent ground cover for full or partial shade. Although Clover cultivars such as Trifolium repens 'Dragons Blood' are not the vastly spreading things that wild purple clovers or white clovers are, they are nevertheless very easy to grow. It does well in poor or rich soil and the soil should be kept moist. It is not prone to serious insect or disease problems. If it periodically loses sharpness of the unusual coloration, it can be cut back dramatically to near the centre of its wide spread, and will pop right back out most colorfully. Clovers are hairy stemmed to prevent ants from easily climbing the stems. If you have an ant problem this is a good plant for you.

Height 5in/13cm. Zone 3-9 USA



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