

***Trifolium plumosum* var. *plumosum*** (Dougl. ex Hook.)  
plumed clover  
Fabaceae (Pea Family)

**Status:** State Threatened

**Rank:** G4T3?S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): This rhizomatous perennial has simple stems 8-20 in. (20 to 50 cm) tall and bears long, soft, shaggy but unmatted hairs on its stems and leaves. The lance-shaped leaflets have a finely-toothed margin and are often folded at the prominent vein and curl lengthwise into a sickle-shape. The inflorescence heads lack involucre and may have between 50 to 150 flowers. These cylindrical inflorescences measure between 1 to 2 in. (3 to 5 cm) long and arise from peduncles that are often shorter than the uppermost leaves. Each individual flower measures between  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. (14 to 20 mm) in length and is white in color with reddish or pinkish tips. The calyx can be half as long or equal to the corolla. The fruit is generally 1-seeded.

**Identification Tips:** *Trifolium plumosum* is the only clover in its range that has elongate flower heads. There are three linear to elliptic leaflets on each leaf. *T. plumosum* var. *plumosum* can be distinguished from var. *amplifolium* by the difference in leaf shape and breadth. In var. *plumosum*, the leaflets of the basal leaves are  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (2 to 5 mm) broad and gradually taper while forming concave sides along the point, while the leaves of var. *amplifolium* are  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  in. (9 to 16 mm) and taper to a point with straight edges.

**Phenology:** Identifiable June and July.

**Range:** *Trifolium plumosum* var. *plumosum* is a regional endemic from the Blue Mountains of southeast Washington to the Blue and Wallowa Mountains of northeast Oregon. In Washington it is only known in Walla Walla County.

**Habitat:** Dry hillsides and meadows.

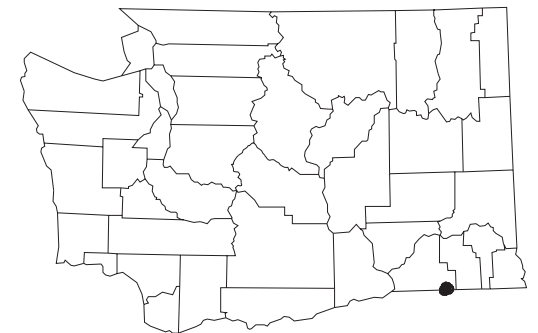
**Ecology:** Known associates include Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), lupine (*Lupinus* sp.), Nuttall's larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*), yarrow (*Achillea* sp.), and English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*).

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Known distribution of  
*Trifolium plumosum*  
var. *plumosum*  
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Oregon State University

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**State Status Comments:** There are less than five recent occurrences of this taxon. One of the historical sightings is in an area that has had extensive agricultural development and it is likely that the habitat has been destroyed. The taxon is known only to exist on private lands.

**Inventory Needs:** Suitable habitat should be systematically inventoried.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Agricultural development and grazing may threaten the taxon.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.G. A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.

Washington Natural Heritage Program. 1981. *An Illustrated Guide to the Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington*. Washington State Department of Natural Resources. 308p.