

p 40)

notes collected

(36) Wed Jun 9/76 b. Sunday / June 13 (Clover)

Taylor 241

First draft f Tues June 15/76

uses: 242

forage, lawn mixture, green manure. Pea f (leguminosae) genus trifolium [Q. trèfle Gray] (T.) [L.Z. trifle]

lvs. compound ← 3 (rarely 4) toothed most leaflets ←

stalkless. Flrs pealike proved only by careful dissection only; fruit dry 1-2 seeds covered by withered calyx; bee plants "absorb free N from the air + add it to the soil": 2000 yrs before

the quotes were proved clover was cult. for soil improve- ment var.:

alexandrinum <Syria> Berseem or Egyptian ≠ SW, Calif USA, white or yellowish-w leaf globe shaped 1-2 ft. H. annual T. pratense (red) 1-2 ft leaflets notched at tip usually white blotched common clover USA peren. T. repens white or Dutch clover, low creeping perennial leaves long-stalked leaflets notched, minute teeth; flower heads

- 1 Clove nitrogen chemist <soak> airily pumps phosphor dark shiner niter direland
- 2 itself dark shiner phosphor saltpeter forage 4-5-6 rarely more leaflets
- 3 direland forage 4-5-6 rarely more
- 4 shamrock <doublin'g> confusion red globe
- 5 blossom the? fort <trifling> home pray <prate> tense
- 6 dutch-white repents yellow's nonesuch / blacks
- 7 medic disputes none's shamrock except
- 8 perennial springers onto bog falls

{vertical:}

all globed

shaped /

perennially

seasoned

(they) spring

to fall /

seasons-for-all

these spring to fall

(L.Z. <transliterate> 8

orig. sin) / springer - Evelyn, Sylva IV iv ¶4

(a growing / plant; also a youth (Halliwell) / cf springe <W.S.>

Ham V 2 317 Phosphor,

Gk. light bringer L - morning / star ("Venus)

2nd draft Tu. June 15/76

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

dutch-white repents yellow's nonesuch

{vertical:}

(*) Taylor 1102 ox also / Oxalis Acetosella also passes as shamrock - a wood sorrel / "which is the one might be left to / the Irish, if they agreed but they don't

Pt. J. prob. Melilotus "Melilot or sweet cl. weedy herbs, pea fam. peren; sweet-smelling foliage, compound lvs with only 3 nrly stalkless leaflets flwrs spirelike racemes terminal or in leaf axils fruit egg-shaped pod 1-2 seeds scarcely splitting. Roadsides

solitary on long stalks
 from the ground. 3/17 appears in flats or pans for
 T. medium = Zigzag,
 "cow clover" per. 5-15"
 creeping rootstock, not
 blotched as in pratensa
 leaflets ellip-oblong
 nearly without teeth
 flwrs globe shaped
 stalked deep purple

shamrock (T. dubium not
 cult. is also a shamrock
 "several of these clovers, occ
 4-5-6 rarely more leaflets"
 <N.Y.> yellow clover = medicago
 lupulina "black medic" <"nonesuch">
 + also passes for shamrock
 annual deep rooted herb 3 ft L → {*cont. right vertical:* }
 much branched | confused with clover
 flwrs small fruit heads much / smaller
 light yellow smooth black pod

* * *

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 Edited and transcribed by Jeffrey Twitchell-Waas.}

Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Clover, Medicago, Melilotus, Shamrock**
 Gray, *Gray's Manual of Botany*, **Leguminosae** (Pulse Family) > **Trifolium** (Clover, Trefoil) (891)
Century Dictionary (CD), ***niter (nitre), Phosphor, springe, springer**

line 1: **Clover nitrogen soak airily pumps**
 line 2: **phosphor dark shiner niter direland**
 line 3: **forage 4-5-6 rarely more leaflets**
 line 4: **shamrock doublin' confusion red globe**
 line 5: **blossom trifling home prate tense**
 line 6: **dutchwhite repents yellow's nonesuch black**
 line 7: **medic disputes none 's shamrock**
 line 8: **perennial springers onto bog falls**

June 13-15, 1976

line 1: **Clover nitrogen soak airily pumps**

Taylor, **Clover**. Extremely useful agricultural, forage plants of secondary interest to the gardener, except as some of them are constituents of lawn mixtures, and the value of the coarser ones as green manure. The genus **Trifolium** (try-fo'li-um), to which belong all those below, comprises over 300 species of the pea family, nearly all from temperate regions. Leaves compound, in all of ours with 3 (rarely 4), usually toothed, leaflets, most of them stalkless. Flowers small, pea-like, but so proved only by careful dissection, crowded in dense heads. Fruit small, dry 1-2-seeded, usually covered by the withered calyx. (*Trifolium* is Latin for 3 leaves.) All are splendid bee plants.

Few or none of those below are garden plants grown for ornament. Their value lies in the fact of their ability to absorb free nitrogen from the atmosphere and add it to the soil. For two thousand years before this was definitely established, clovers were cult. for soil improvement, a practice just as sound today.

line 2: **phosphor dark shiner niter direland**

CD, **Phosphor**, n. [{...} < L. *Phosphorus*, < Gr. Φωσφόρος, Lucifer, the morning star, < φωσφόρος, bringing light, < φῶς, contr. of φᾶος, light, (< φάειν, shine) {...}]. **1.** The morning star, or Lucifer; the planet Venus, when it precedes the sun and shines in the morning. 2†. [l.c.] Phosphorus.

*CD, **niter, nitre**, n. [< {...} NL. *nitrum*, niter, saltpeter, < L. *nitrum* {...}] A salt (KNO₃), also called *saltpeter*, and in the nomenclature of chemistry *potassium nitrate*. It is formed in the soil from nitrogenous organic bodies by the action of microbes, and crystallizes upon the surface in several parts of the world, and especially in the East Indies.

See Taylor line 1.

direland < Ireland

line 3: **forage 4-5-6 rarely more leaflets**

See Taylor line 1.

Taylor, **Clover** {see line 1} > Several of these clovers, from wholly unknown causes, occasionally produce leaves with 4, or even 5 or 6 or rarely more leaflets.

line 4: **shamrock doublin' confusion red globe**

Taylor, **Shamrock**. In different seasons and in different regions at least three cult. plants pass as "shamrock." The most common and perhaps the true shamrock, if there is one, is the common white clover (*Trifolium repens*). Another plant often sold as shamrock is the hop clover (*Medicago lupulina*). The third is a wood sorrel (*Oxalis Acetosella*). Which is the true shamrock might be left to the Irish, if they agreed, but they do not. In the U.S. the shamrocks sold on the streets are usually seedling plants of

the white clover or of *T. Dublum* {> **dubia**, -us, -um. Doubtful, especially as to identity or name}, a non-hort. species of clover.

doublin' < *Dublum*, Dublin

Taylor, **Clover** {see line 1} > **T. pratense** {> Growing in meadows}. **Red clover**, also called honey-suckle clover. A perennial 1-2 ft. high, but not long persisting. Leaflets ovalish or oblong, 1½-2½ in. long, often notched at the tip and usually white-blotched. Flower heads globe-shaped, rose-purple. Eu. The common clover of our meadows.

line 5: **blossom trifling home prate tense**

Gray, **LEGUMINOSAE** (Pulse Family) > **18. Trifolium** L. CLOVER. TREFOIL. TRÈFLE (Que.) (891)

trifling home < *Trifolium* + trèfle {= Fr. clover, trifol}.

See Taylor, **T. pratense** line 4.

prate tense < *pratense*

line 6: **dutchwhite repents yellow's nonesuch black**

Taylor, **Clover** {see line 1} > **T. repens** {> Creeping}. **White** or **Dutch clover**. A low creeping perennial. Leaves long-stalked, the leaflets notched, minutely toothed. Flower heads solitary, on long stalks arising from the ground, globe-shaped and white. Eu. A low plant forming flat mats. It is the chief clover in grass mixtures and makes a valuable constituent of lawns. On March 17 it annually appears in flats or pans, forced for the purpose as the "shamrock" (which see), but *T. dubium* (a non-hort. species) is also a "shamrock."

repents < *repens*

Taylor, **Medicago** (me-i-kā'go). A genus of about 50 species of annual and perennial herbs, rarely shrubs, of the pea family. Leaves alternate, the leaflets arranged feather-fashion, in threes, and toothed. Flowers small, pea-like, yellow or violet, in terminal clusters, or in heads from the axils of the leaves. The fruit is a spirally twisted, unsplitting pod, smooth or spiny, 1- to few-seeded. Commonly known as medic or hop-clover. Old World plants and naturalized in N.A. (Named from Medice, the Greek name for alfalfa which is supposed to have come from Media.)

M. lupulina {> Like a hop (*Lupulus*)}. **Black medic**; also known as nonesuch, and one of the plants that passes for shamrock. An annual, deep-rooted herb, much-branched, the branches 2½-3 ft. long. Flowers small, light yellow. The fruit, a nearly smooth pod, becoming black. Eu., widely naturalized. Often confused with clover, but the heads of flowers are smaller. It is of no garden value, but is sometimes used for forage.

line 7: **medic disputes none 's shamrock**

See Taylor, **M. Iupulina** line 6.

See Taylor, **Shamrock** line 4.

line 8: **perennial springers onto bog falls**

CD, **springe**², *n*. A noose or snare for catching small game; a gin.

A woodcock to mine own *springe*.

Shak., Hamlet, v. 2, 317.

springer, **1**. One who or that which springs, in any sense. (*a*) A growing plant, shrub, or tree; a sapling.

The young men and maidens go out into the woods and coppices, cut down and spoil young *springers* to dress up their May-booths. *Evelyn*, Sylva, IV. iv. § 4.

(*b*) A youth; a lad. *Halliwell*. [Prov. Eng.]