

white prairie clover *Dalea candida*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

White prairie clover is a perennial herb. Its pinnately compound leaves have five to seven leaflets. Each lance-shaped leaflet is about one inch in length and one-fourth inch wide. Small, white flowers are densely clustered in short, thimblelike spikes at the stem tips. Each flower spike is from one to four inches long. Every flower has four petals that are similar in structure and one that is different in size and shape from the others. The fruit is a capsule that contains seeds. White prairie clover may attain a height of one to three feet.

BEHAVIORS

White prairie clover may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in dry to moist prairies. Flowers are produced from June through July. This plant is an important food source for grazing animals of the prairie.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; sand prairie

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