Legume Identification Guide

A guide to identifying forage legumes like clover and alfalfa, covering leaf, flower and growth habit, for farmers checking their stands. Work through the steps in order, and keep notes on what you decide for future reference.

Farm / unit: _____ Date: _____ By: _____

1. Check leaf shape and leaflet number
2. Look for stipules
3. Note flower color and form
4. Inspect stem and growth habit
5. Examine roots for nodules
6. Compare against a reference key
7. Check for look-alike plants
8. Record species and field

YOUR NOTES

TIP Confirm tricky identifications with your extension office and photograph the plant in flower.