Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes
1. Clover

Triohium subterraneum  ssp. subterraneum  (Katzn. et Morley) Zohary and Heller (sub
clover) cv. Howard

Reg. No. B-1d-9
Registered prior to December 1971

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Origin
Bred by J.W. Peak and F.H.W. Morley, CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, Canberra, by crossing Northam
First Early and Tallarook (4). This variety is descended from an individual third-generation plant of the original
cross, selected primarily for yield, early maturity, and seed yield; little selection was done on subsequent
generations (4). First certified in Western Australia and Victoria in 1964 and in New South Wales in 1965-66.

Morphological description (2,4,5)
Growth habit in sward somewhat prostrate. Leaflets hairy, bluish green, base widely cuneate, tip emarginate
to obtusiate, and with pale crescent markings similar to Tallarook. Anthocyanin flecking and chocolate basal
patch and chocolate fringe around crescent at low temperatures or early in season; markings become less distinct
at season progresses. Stipules green. Flower corolla long, white with pink stripes; calyx green. Breeds true for
morphological characters, clover stunt virus resistance and hypersensitive reaction to rust strain at Canberra (4).

Agronomic characters (1-6)
Early mid-season maturity; flowering commences about mid September and the same time as Woogenellup.
There is, however, more variation in flowering time between individual plants in Howard than in other sub
clover varieties. This may be related to it high cold requirement for flowering (2).
It is reported to do best on fairly deep sandy soils along the north-west coast of Tasmania; its productivity
was higher particularly in early winter than Mt. Barker and Woogenellup in the first two years, but it lacks
persistence (3). On the Central Tablelands of New South Wales it has not yielded as well as Woogenellup (6).
It buries a high proportion of burr on suitable soils and regenerates well and makes good recovery after
freezing. It contains moderate to high levels of formononetin and its oestrogenic potency is medium (5). Its
rhizobial requirement is the same as Mt. Barker (q.v.).
It has a high degree of resistance to clover stunt virus (1,4) and its principal merit lies in this character.

References
(Triohium subterraneum L.) to subterranean clover stunt virus infection. Aust. J. Agric. Res. 11, 723-
33.