



Black Medic

O & T Guide W-3

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Black medic, *Medicago lupulina*, is a nonnative annual with clover-like leaves, yellow flower heads, and seed pods that are black at maturity. Black medic is good forage for livestock but is a problem weed in turf. It is also known as black medic, black or hop clover, hop medic, nonesuch, and yellow trefoil.

The stems are branched at the base and often grow along the ground, in colors ranging from green to purple or brown. They grow to about 16 in. long, are usually covered with short hairs. The leaves are clover-like with three leaflets per leaf. The leaflets are oval to heart-shaped, usually hairy, with toothed edges. Each leaflet is about 0.4-0.8 in. long by 0.1-0.5 in. wide.



The plant produces round (sometimes elongated) flower heads on stalks 0.2-1.5 in. long; a single flower head grows on each stalk. Flower heads are 0.1-0.2 in. in diameter with 10-50 flowers per flower

head. Individual flowers are yellow, 0.05-0.10 in. long, and narrow. The plant produces kidney-shaped seed pods that are 0.08-0.12 in. long, sometimes hairy, and black at maturity; each pod contains one seed. The plant grows from a taproot with spreading lateral roots and reproduces from seed only.





Management:

- Physically remove single plants or small infestations
- Herbicides are effective

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