

# Black medic

*Medicago lupulina* L.

Pea Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Plant stems grow prostrate 1-2' in length and have short upright stalks
- ❑ Leaves are in 3's and are oval-shaped
- ❑ Leaves are alternate, finely toothed and have prominent veins
- ❑ Flowers are small and yellow
- ❑ Fruits are kidney-shaped pods that turn black
- ❑ Seed pods are hairy and contain 1 seed



## Biology and ecology

- An annual or short lived perennial plant reproducing by seeds
- Black medic is native to eastern Europe & Asia
- It is a nuisance in lawns & gardens and is also found in waste areas & along roadsides
- It is not usually a problem in pastures - animals tend to keep it grazed
- It is found in throughout the United States



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## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

*Biological* - No known biological control in our area

*Cultural* - Plant competitive grass or other cover crops

*Mechanical* - It can be hand pulled but does not grow upright enough to be effectively mowed

*Chemical* -the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) does not have it listed as a problem weed but other sources list mixtures with either triclopyr, dicamba or clopyralid are listed to work on black medic



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**Where found** – Widely scattered throughout the county seen in many garden, lawns, and driveways