

Sweetclover

Yellow sp. - Melilotus officinalis

White sp. - Melilotus alba

Pea Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Plant stems grow erect up to 6' tall
- ❑ Leaves are trifoliate (groups of 3) and strongly resemble alfalfa
- ❑ Flowers are small and yellow to white
- ❑ Flowers grow along the end of each stem
- ❑ Seed pods contain 1 or 2 seeds

Biology and ecology

- An annual, winter annual, or biennial plant reproducing by seeds
- Native to Europe & Asia and now commonly found along road sides and waste areas in U.S.
- One of the first plants to appear on a disturbed site
- It is a plant favored by honey producers but it is known to cause bloating in cattle
- It has been used for soil stabilization and bird habitat but is not recommended due to its aggressive nature

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 - Mowing before seed is produced will help but will not effectively kill existing plants.

Many internet sites claim prescribed burning is good control

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 will work on sweet clover

Where found - Widely scattered throughout the county along driveways, roads and disturbed areas.

