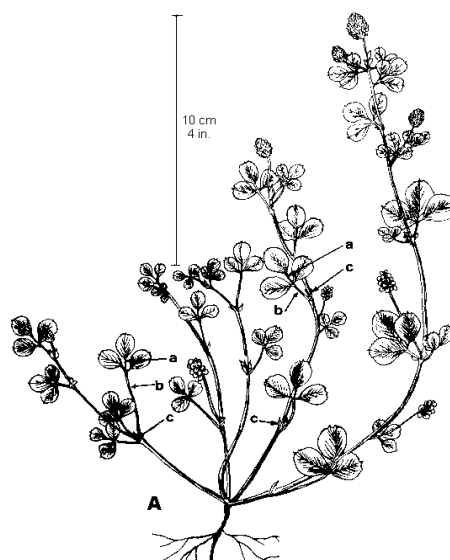


BROADLEAF WEEDS

TITLE:	BLACK MEDIC
LATIN NAME:	<i>Medical lupulina L,</i>
FAMILY:	Legume (Fabaceae)
OVERALL DESCRIPTION:	
Black Medic is a legume, able to fix its own nitrogen, so it grows in a prostrate fashion in low nitrogen areas like low maintenance lawns, parks and along roadsides, and in dry disturbed areas.	
LIFE CYCLE	Summer annual, or less often a winter annual
SEASONS OF GROWTH	Flowers, fruits and seeds are produced from late spring to early fall
FLOWERS / SEEDHEAD	The flowers are grouped on long stalks from the leaf axils. They produce a tight, compressed cluster of small yellow flowers, from early spring to late autumn, dropping its seed during most of that time. It is most noticeable when the flowers are in peak during summer. The flowers mature and form a tightly coiled black seedpod. New plants are generated from this seed.
LEAF SHAPE	Oval
LEAF EDGES	The edges of each leaf are smooth at the bottom, and slightly serrated at the top
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Oval The wedge-shaped leaves are formed in a trifoliate arrangement, with three oval leaflets about 1/2 to 3/4 inches in length, and arise on stems alternately.
GROWTH HABIT	Puts down a deep central taproot, and long spreading stems grow in a prostrate fashion from the crowns. They grow close to the ground, then turn slightly upright at the ends.
FULL LEAF SIZE	Up to 1 3/16 in long
STEM CHARACTERISTICS	Stems are somewhat hairy and square, grow close to the ground and turn slightly up right at the ends.
ROOT	Long central taproot



Photos: Purdue University



ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS	Leaves are dull green on top and pale green underneath
TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH	Dry, disturbed, low nitrogen, low maintenance with thin turf canopy.
KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER	Black Medic is not shade tolerant, so maintain a thick turf canopy to shade and out-compete the weed.
CULTURAL CONTROL	Maintain a thick turf grass canopy. Black Medic is a legume capable of fixing its own nitrogen, so adequate nitrogen fertilization techniques will help manage the weed and develop a more competitive turf. The presence of Black Medic in the field may indicate a dry soil in need of irrigation. Black Medic can also be easily pulled by hand if not too big an area. Remove as much of the taproot as possible. Hand weeding should be done when the plant is in the early growing stages, especially before it produces viable seed.
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL	None known.
CHEMICAL CONTROL	Management is a post emergence strategy. Following are active ingredients of products for post-emergence treatment: 2 or 3 way mixtures of 2,4-D + Dicamba, MCPP, or 2,4-Dicamba + Triclopyr
SOURCES OF INFORMATION	<p>Wisconsin horticulture division extension https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/black-medic-medicago-lupulina/</p> <p>Purdue University https://turf.purdue.edu/black-medic/</p> <p>Penn State University Lawn and Turf https://extension.psu.edu/lawn-and-turfgrass-weeds-black-medic-medicago-lupulina-l</p> <p>VCE, Pest Management Guide (PMG) Home Grounds and Animals, 2021 https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf</p> <p>Ontario Minister of Agriculture http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/black_medick.htm#f&f</p>
FCMGA SPECIAL PROJECT RESEARCH BY	Karen Bell, FCMGA Master Gardener Intern