

Black medic

Medicago lupulina

Description

Introduced to North America as a forage plant for livestock and for improving soil as early as the 1700s.

Habit

Low growing summer or winter annual broadleaf growing to about 1.6 feet tall.

Leaves

Alternate, compound, trifoliate.

Stems

Light green in color or reddish green, densely covered in white hairs.

Flowers

Yellow in color, clustered in groups of 15-20 flowers. Flowers are 0.13 inches (0.32 cm) long and clusters are 0.25 in. (0.64 cm) across.

Fruits and Seeds

Each flower cluster is replaced by a dense cluster of seedpods. Dark colored, hairy, strongly curled





and 0.13 in. (0.32 cm) long containing a single seed that is flattened and kidney-shaped.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Can be found in highly disturbed areas, prairies, cropland, pastures, railroads and roadsides.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Herbicides such as 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid and dicamba have been used to manage this species in agricultural fields.

Credits

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