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## Birdsfoot trefoil

*Lotus corniculatus* L.

### Life cycle

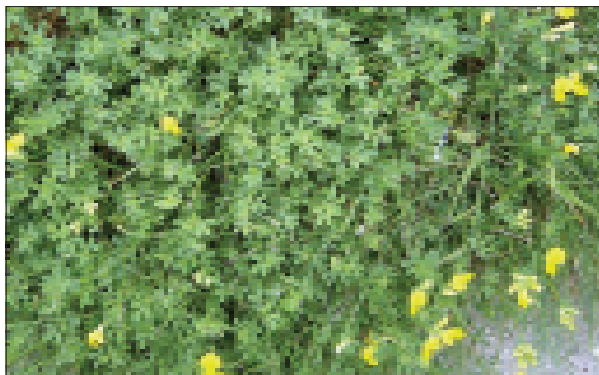
Mat-forming perennial.

### Leaves

Alternate, compound with five generally oval and smooth-margined leaflets. Each compound leaf has three terminal leaflets and two reduced leaflets near the stem.

### Stems

Prostrate and spreading to semierect stems are herbaceous, branched from a tough crown and up to 3 feet long. Plants form mats by stolons and rhizomes.



Birdsfoot trefoil plant.

## **Birdsfoot trefoil *continued***

### **Flowers and fruit**

Bright yellow, pealike flowers, sometimes streaked with red, are found in flat-topped clusters at the ends of long stalks. Fruit are several linear, cylinder-shaped pods formed in the shape of a bird's foot. Each capsule contains several roundish, shiny, olive to black seeds.



Birdsfoot trefoil leaf.

### **Reproduction**

Seeds, stolons and rhizomes.



Birdsfoot trefoil flowers.

**Fabaceae (Legume family)**