

[Back to identifying nursery weeds.](#)

## **Black medic**

*Medicago lupulina* L.

### **Life cycle**

Prostrate, trailing summer annual.

### **Leaves**

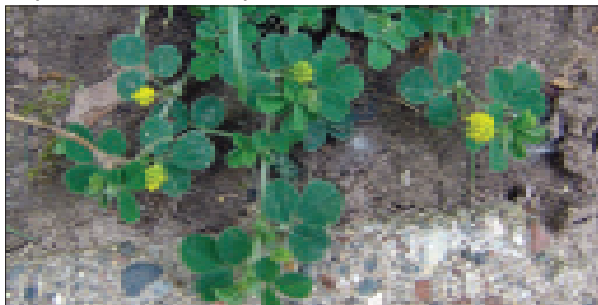
Alternate, compound – with three oval to egg-shaped leaflets – hairless to sparsely hairy, shallowly toothed along the upper half and tipped with a small point. The central leaflet is found on a definite stalk; the two lateral leaflets are nearly stalkless. A pair of stipules is present at the base of each petiole.

### **Stems**

Prostrate, trailing to ascending stems are wiry, usually hairy, multibranching from the base and up to 2 feet long.

### **Flowers and fruit**

Numerous, very small, yellow flowers are formed in dense, mostly globe-shaped, cloverlike clusters. Fruit are clusters of black, coiled, kidney- to bean-shaped, one-seeded pods.



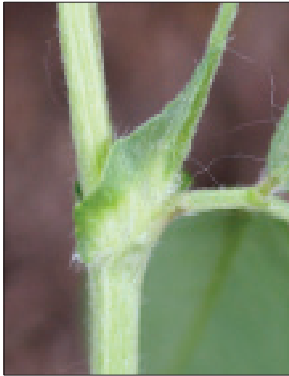
Black medic plant.

**Fabaceae (Legume family)**

## Black medic *continued*

### Reproduction

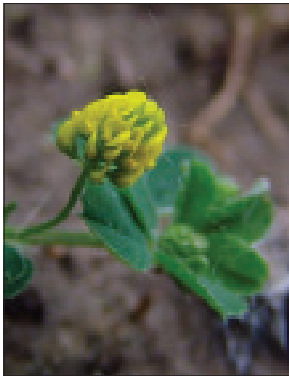
Seeds.



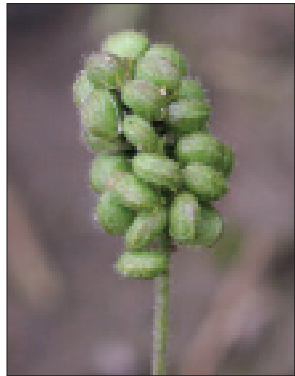
Black medic stipule.



Black medic leaf.



Black medic flower.



Black medic fruit.

**Fabaceae (Legume family)**