



# BLACK MEDIC

**BOTANICAL NAME:** (*Medicago lupulina*)

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** The leaves are clover shaped and dark green. A shallow rooted plant with many stems that are slender, grow flat to the ground, are slightly hairy and can spread out 1 to 2 feet from the main taproot. The bright yellow flowers are clustered on

short stems. The flowers are actually a cluster that is about 1/2 inch long, round and comprised of up to 50 individual flowers.

**WHERE DOES IT GROW?** Black medic is common in lawns, sidewalk cracks, roadsides, stream valleys, pastures and fields.

**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** Flowering begins in April and continues into October.

**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?** It usually grows as an annual, sprouting from seeds in the spring.

## HOW DO I CONTROL IT?

### ➤ Non-Chemical Methods:

- Good turf management practices, including a balanced nitrogen/phosphorus fertilization program, will encourage a dense stand of turf and make it difficult for black medic to survive.
- Black medic is usually found where soil is compacted. Relieving compaction is the best method of control. For small areas, this can be done with a spading fork. For larger areas, rent a machine called a core aerator to take plugs of soil out of the ground. Aeration can be done in spring or fall when the soil is moist. Follow fall aeration with overseeding to help replace thin, weed-infested turf with good grass.
- Other cultural practices that promote lawn growth include high mowing (2 1/2" to 3 1/2") in hot weather, thorough deep watering during hot dry periods, and fertilizing, especially in the fall.



### ➤ Chemical Methods:

- Apply a selective herbicide to actively growing black medic during the seedling to flower growth stage (April, June, September and October).

**NOTE:** This plant is not considered noxious in the State of Idaho or in Kootenai County

Want more information? Contact:

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**  
**10905 N. Ramsey Road**  
**Hayden, ID 83835**  
**208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145**  
**kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)**

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