



Black medic, is an annual or short-lived perennial herbaceous plant native to much of Asia, Europe, and Northern Africa that has been naturalized across most of the world. Stems are generally prostrate (spreading close to the ground) and heavily branching with tips extending upward. May bloom from March through July in Florida.

Often found in fields, forest margins and along roadsides. Can grow in temporarily flooded areas but is highly sensitive to salinity. Commercial cultivars to exist which are generally used as a forage or cover-crop. Being a legume, black medic fixes nitrogen.

Blooms are visited by pollinators, however, the plant exhibits varying reproductive strategies. Flowers are hermaphroditic Very often found as a weed in lawns, landscapes and orchards. See below reading for guidance on control.

Growth Form	Herbaceous annual Short-lived perennial
Growth Rate	Rapid germination Moderate-rapid during spring
Potential Size	Height: $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 ft. Spread: $\frac{1}{3}$ - 2 ft.
Leaves	Pinnately compound leaf Three leaflets Ovate or obovate Cuneate base Margin lightly serrate at tip
Flowers	Yellow Small oblong heads of 10-30 Bloom Mar-August
Fruit	Kidney-shaped pods Lightly pubescent Single seeded



Additional Reading

Black Medic Biology and Management in Turf: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep494>

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