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YELLOW TREFOIL OR BLACK MEDIC
(*Medicago lupulina*)

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This legume is a rather low growing annual, or weak perennial, somewhat resembling a miniature alfalfa plant, to which it is related. Its blossoms are yellow. Its seed, closely resembling alfalfa, is produced in black pods that are rather small and inconspicuous. Its growth is made in the spring and seed production in July.

Yellow Trefoil was introduced into this country probably as an adulterant in foreign alfalfa seed and is native to Europe and Asia. Because of this use as an adulterant, it was formerly listed as a noxious weed in Indiana, but it is no longer included in the noxious weed list, as alfalfa seed is largely home grown. However, it appears to have been widely distributed throughout the state, and is rather commonly found in lawns where it adds some nitrogen but is much less desirable in lawns than white clover. It is also found rather commonly in pastures and roadsides. It adds to the pasture value of any mixture in which it is found, but gives only spring growth. Farmers report favorably on its grazing qualities.

A few wholesale seed companies distribute seed which may be sown in late summer or early fall as a part of pasture mixture or in extreme southern Indiana with crimson clover. It will not make as much growth as either red or crimson clover, and therefore should be regarded under Indiana conditions as a minor supplementary pasture legume. It is reported to withstand greater cold than red clover.

It resembles Hop clover described below, but can be distinguished in the seed stage by its black seed bearing pods. Both these clovers are often confused with lespedeza but the latter has a purple flower and blooms in August and is a summer and fall growing legume. This is not the same as Birdsfoot Trefoil.

HOP CLOVER
(*Trifolium procumbens*)

While three species of this are reported in the United States, yet that most commonly found in Indiana is probably the above, and possibly should be called Low Hop Clover or Mignonette Clover. This legume is also a spring grower, and when once established, apparently continues to persist and spread in pasture land where it provides some pasture in spring and early summer. Farmers of southern Indiana finding this legume growing wild in their pastures are impressed with its value and regard it favorably. It is not found as widely distributed naturally in northern Indiana, but it appears to be steadily increasing in the southern part of the state. Phosphate applications to permanent pasture stimulate it.

Flowers are yellow, and the head when mature turns light brown and somewhat resembles a small hop. Seed is produced ordinarily in June and early July. Seed of both these legumes is distributed by a few wholesale seed houses.