

# Black Medic

*Medicago lupulina*

**Common Names:** Japanese clover, black medick, nonesuch, hop clover, trefoil, hop medic, spotted burclover, blackseed, black clover

**Species Affected:** Cattle, Sheep

**Toxin:** Non-Toxic but may cause bloating

## **Description:**

It is low trailing, and grows between 1 and 2 feet tall. Black medic resembles a clover, it has alternating leaves in 3 leaflets that are slightly hairy. Flowers are small and yellow and grow in clusters on the stalks, they will turn to black pods later in the season when they are ripe.

## **Growing Location and Timing :**

Black medic can be found in areas of poor, dry soil, as well as gardens and lawns. Black medic begins germination from early autumn to spring.

## **Affects on Livestock:**

Although black medic is not toxic to livestock, it may cause severe bloat. It is less palatable to cattle, making it less likely for cattle to be hindered by black medic.

## **Signs and Symptoms:**

Symptoms of bloating can range from, swollen left abdomen, stops eating, stagnant, bulging eyes, struggling to urinate, rapid breathing, staggering.

## **Preventative Measures:**

Remove livestock from areas where black medic is growing in abundance. Make sure that hay being fed to livestock is not contaminated by black medic, or any other plant that may cause harm to livestock.

