

Bird's foot trefoil

Lotus corniculatus

SOMEWHAT INVASIVE – established in the region

Invasive habitat: grows well in full sun in areas such as fields, lawns, and roadsides.

Native range: Europe



Common in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: herbaceous perennial that grows 12-24" and has a sprawling growth form.



Flowers: flowers are bright yellow and pea-like and grow to be ½" wide. They may turn orange as they age, grow in clusters of 3-12, and bloom June-Aug.



Leaves: leaves are clover-like with 3 leaflets on the end of a stalk. There are 2 small leaves that grow at the base of stalks.



Seeds: seeds are produced in 1" long brown seed pods that form in clusters and look like a "bird's foot".

CONTROL



Manual: digging can be effective if all root fragments are removed.



Chemical: herbicides with clopyralid, glyphosate, or triclopyr are effective.



Prescribed fire: not recommended as it promotes germination and establishment.



Cultural: check roadside seed mixes to ensure this is not included, and that all seeds are of native plants.



Mechanical: repeated and frequent mowing for several years will control but not eliminate the population.