

# White sweet clover

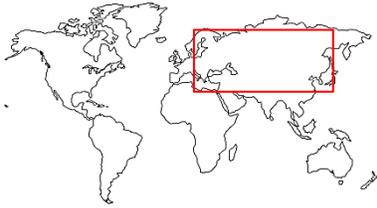
*Melilotus alba*

\* Compare to *Melilotus officinalis*

## SOMEWHAT INVASIVE – *established in the region*

Invasive habitat: grows in full sun on roadsides, open roads, forest edges, and sites with disturbed soils.

Native range: Europe and Asia



Common in the Arrowhead and taking over roadsides and burnt areas on the Gunflint Trail.



## IDENTIFICATION



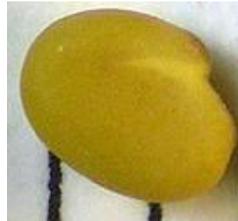
Growth form: herbaceous biennial that appears bushy as it grows.



Flowers: white flowers grow on spike-like racemes of up to 8". Each flower is about 1/4" long and pea-like. Blooms June-October.



Leaves: leaves are compound and composed of 3 leaflets that are each 1/2 to 1" long by 1/4 to 1/2" wide.



Seeds: plants are prolific seed producers and can produce up to 350,000 seeds per plant that remain viable in the soil up to 30 years.

## CONTROL



Manual: hand pulling may be effective for small populations, but plants have a strong taproot



Chemical: 2,4-D amine or macamine are effective; use after a fall or spring burn to limit damage to natives



Prescribed fire: multiple burns are needed to noticeably decrease populations.



Cultural: limit dispersal on vehicles and shoes by cleaning equipment



Mechanical: cut before the flowers develop

# Yellow sweet clover

*Melilotus officinalis*

\* Compare to *Melilotus alba*

## SOMEWHAT INVASIVE – *established in the region*

Invasive habitat: grows in full sun on roadsides, open roads, forest edges, and sites with disturbed soils.

Native range: Europe



*Common in the Arrowhead and taking over roadsides and burnt areas on the Gunflint Trail.*



## IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: herbaceous biennial that appears bushy as it grows.



Flowers: yellow flowers grow on spike-like racemes of up to 6". Each flower is about ¼" long and pea-like. Blooms June-September.



Leaves: leaves are compound and composed of 3 leaflets that are each ½ to 1" long by ¼ to ½" wide.



Seeds: plants produce up to 100,000 seeds per plant. Seeds are dispersed by gravity and animals.

## CONTROL



**Manual**: hand pulling may be effective for small populations, but plants have a strong taproot



**Chemical**: 2,4-D amine or macamine are effective; use after a fall or spring burn to limit damage to natives



**Prescribed fire**: multiple burns are needed to noticeably decrease populations.



**Cultural**: limit dispersal on vehicles and shoes by cleaning equipment



**Mechanical**: cut before the flowers develop