

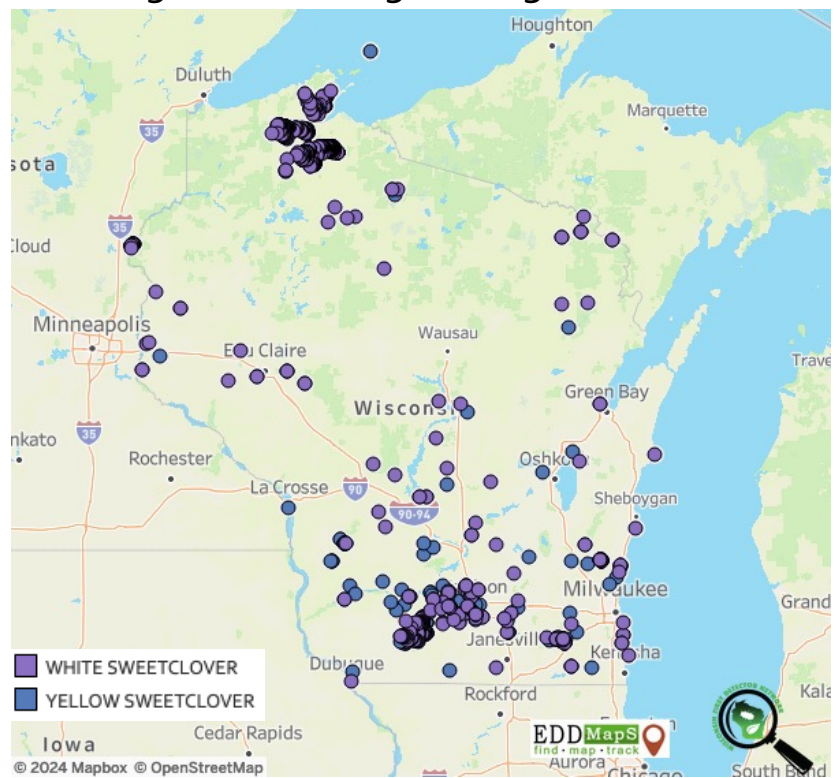


# Sweet-clovers (*Melilotus* spp.)



2004 © Peter M. Dziuk

- Tall, bushy legumes with small flowers and deep taproots
- Habitats they invade:
  - Grasslands
  - Roadsides
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Not Regulated
  - Not regulated in neighboring states





# Sweet-clovers (*Melilotus* spp.)

*Leaves alternate, trifoliate*

- Leaflets about 1" long
- Leaflets are oval; margins toothed
- Stems are strongly ascending, somewhat spindly

© 2008 k. chayka



© 2008 k. chayka



# Sweet-clovers (*Melilotus* spp.)

## *Flower/fruit*

- Small, pea-like flowers; white or yellow
- Flowers on long, ascending stems; June-Sept.
- Fruit is a tiny, oval legume with 1-2 seeds



# Sweet-clover look alike

There are two sweet-clovers established in Wisconsin: yellow sweet-clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) and white sweet-clover (*Melilotus albus*). They can only be told apart from one another by their flower colors.

They could be mistaken for bush-clovers (*Lespedeza* spp.), but bush-clovers have flowers that are **pinkish purple or creamy yellow**, not bright yellow or white. **Bush-clover flowers are held in smaller, tighter clusters.** Bush-clovers also have **hairy leaves and stems and leaflets without teeth.**

