

# *Medicago lupulina*

## Habitus and growth type

Plant height [m]: **0.23**  
Life span: **Annual, Biennial or short-lived**  
Life form: **Hemicryptophyte, Therophyte**  
Spinescence: **not spinescent**

## Leaf

Specific leaf area [mm<sup>2</sup>/mg]: **26.53**

## Flower

Flowering period: **March-July**

## Fruit, seed and dispersal

Seed mass [mg]: **1.73**  
Dispersal mode: **Local non-specific dispersal, Anthropochory**  
Dispersal distance class: **1, 7**

## Trophic mode

Parasitism and mycoheterotrophy: **autotroph**  
Carnivory: **non-carnivorous**  
Symbiotic nitrogen fixation: **symbiosis with rhizobia**

## Taxon origin

Origin in Europe: **Native**

## Ecology

### Environmental relationships

Substrate humidity relationship: **Dry**  
Substrate reaction relationship: **Alkaline**  
Nutrient relationship: **Mesotrophic**  
Salinity relationship: **Non-saline**  
Ellenberg-type indicator values  
Light indicator value: **7.3**  
Temperature indicator value: **5.4**  
Moisture indicator value: **4.1**  
Reaction indicator value: **7.6**  
Nutrient indicator value: **4.2**  
Salinity indicator value: **0.4**  
Disturbance indicator values

Disturbance frequency: **1.35**  
Disturbance frequency (herb layer): **1.95**  
Disturbance severity: **0.59**  
Disturbance severity (herb layer): **0.56**  
Mowing frequency: **0.82**  
Grazing pressure: **0.24**  
Soil disturbance: **0.35**

## Habitat and sociology

### Syntaxon

Diagnostic species of phytosociological classes: [DA \(FES\) \*Festuco-Brometea\*](#), [FH \(BUL\) \*Poetea bulbosae\*](#), [QF \(ART\) \*Artemisietea vulgaris\*](#)

### EUNIS habitat

Diagnostic species of EUNIS habitats: [R1A Semi-dry perennial calcareous grassland \(meadow steppe\)](#)

Constant species of EUNIS habitats: [R13 Cryptogam- and annual-dominated vegetation on calcareous and ultramafic rock outcrops](#), [R14 Perennial rocky grassland of the Italian Peninsula](#), [R1A Semi-dry perennial calcareous grassland \(meadow steppe\)](#), [R22 Low and medium altitude hay meadow](#), [U71 Unvegetated or sparsely vegetated gravel bar in montane and alpine regions](#), [V12 Mixed crops of market gardens and horticulture](#), [V13 Arable land with unmixed crops grown by low-intensity agricultural methods](#), [V38 Dry perennial anthropogenic herbaceous vegetation](#)

### Broad habitat

Occurrence in broad habitats: **Grassland (non-alpine, non-saline)**, **Scrub**, **Sparsely vegetated (incl. rock and scree)**, **Synanthropic**

## Distribution

Continentality amplitude: **9**