Alfalfa
Medicago sativa

Minnesota C-Value: 0
Wetland Indicator Status: UPL
Non-native

Leaves: Alternate branching with 3 leaflets, toothed toward the tip and tapered at the base. 10-45 mm long, 3-10 mm wide, paler green on the lower side. Middle leaflet turns upward. Stipules lanceolate.

Stems: 2-3 ft tall, 5-25 erect slender stems per plant arising from a woody crown. Usually hairless. Deep tap root can reach up to 30 ft.

Flowers and fruit: Purple or violet flowers are 5-parted and 6-13 mm long. Fruit is a finely hairy coiled pod that contains yellow or brown ovoid seeds.

Plant communities: Disturbed sites. Intolerant of wet, poorly drained conditions.

Comments: Introduced, non-native perennial legume, grown and harvested for hay. The wedge-shaped base and point at tip of leaflets differentiate this plant from other legumes with 3 leaflets (clovers).