

# Birdsfoot trefoil

*Lotus corniculatus* L.



## Life cycle

Mat-forming perennial.

## Leaves

Alternate, compound with five generally oval and smooth-margined leaflets. Each compound leaf has three terminal leaflets and two reduced leaflets near the stem.

## Stems

Prostrate and spreading to semierect stems are herbaceous, branched from a tough crown and up to 3 feet long. Plants form mats by stolons and rhizomes.

## Flowers and fruit

Bright yellow, pealike flowers, sometimes streaked with red, are found in flat-topped clusters at the ends of long stalks. Fruit are several linear, cylinder-shaped pods formed in the shape of a bird's foot. Each capsule contains several roundish, shiny, olive to black seeds.



Birdsfoot trefoil leaf.

## Reproduction

Seeds, stolons and rhizomes.



Birdsfoot trefoil plant.



Birdsfoot trefoil flowers.

**Fabaceae (Legume family)**