

Velvetleaf

Abutilon theophrasti

Description

Introduced to North America in the 1700s as a potential fiber crop. This species is listed under <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest/plant-health-certification-and-export/seed> Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation as a restricted noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Habit

Summer annual, that reproduces only by seed and reaches a height of 1-4 m.

Leaves

Large, heart-shaped with pointed tips. Alternate, with long, stout leaf stalks and a distinct odor when crushed.

Stems

Branched, covered with soft, velvety hairs and growing 3-8 ft. in height.





Flowers

Yellow, up to 1 in. in diameter, with 5 petals that are fused at the base. Grow on stalks and found singly or in clusters where the leaf stalk meets the stem.

Fruits and Seeds

Produces pod-like capsules that consist of a cup-like ring formed by 12-15 woody segments. One plant can produce up to 17,000 seeds and remain viable for 50-60 years.

Habitat

Native to southern Asia. Can be found in orchards, vineyards, crop fields, nursery fields, gardens, roadsides and other disturbed areas.

Reproduction

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Can be easily pulled or dug up before going to seed. Established populations will take longer to eradicate due to the long lived seeds. Can be mowed close to the ground while plants are still small. Do not till or plow - promotes seed germination.

Credits

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