

Common St. Johnswort

Hypericum perforatum

Description

Grow in dense patches; plants have been used to treat mild depression, but have been shown to cause hyper photosensitivity.

Habit

Perennial, rhizomatous herb that can reach 1.2 m (4 ft) in height; long taproot with shallow, slender, branched root system.

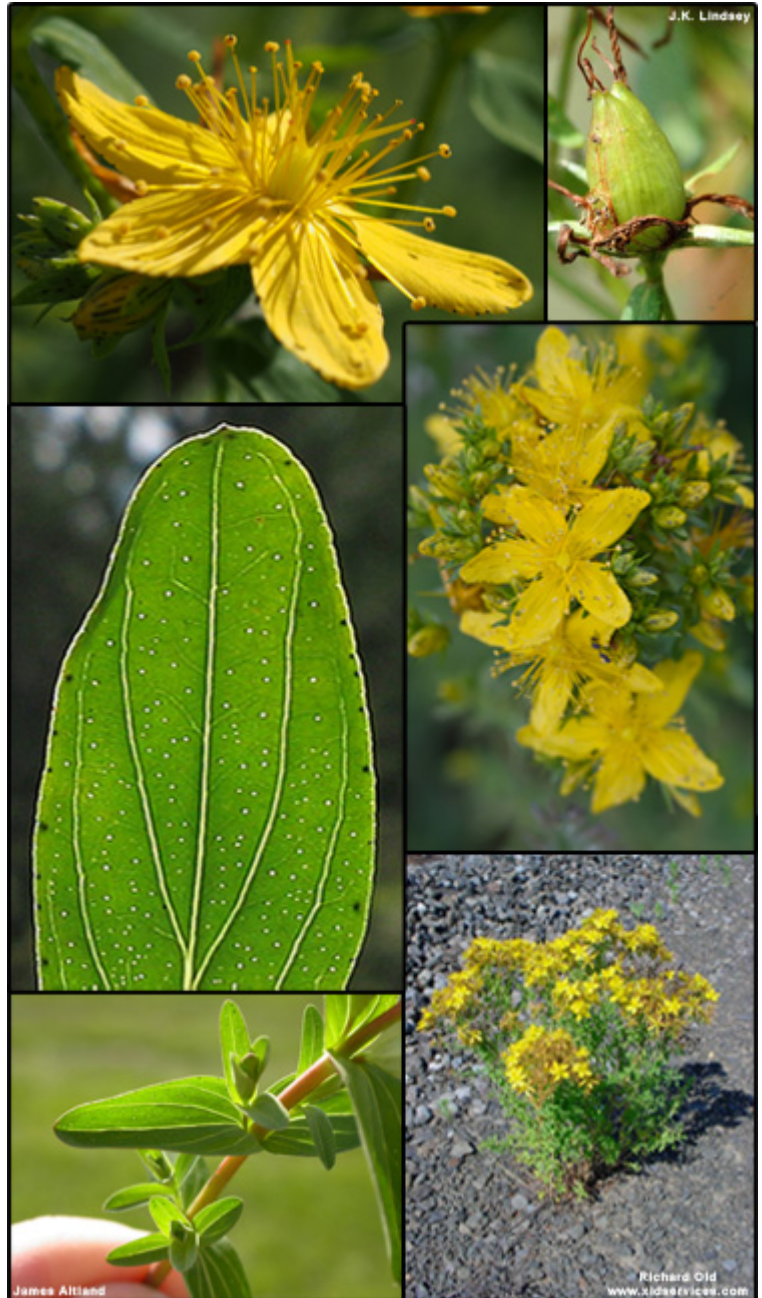
Leaves

Opposite, sessile, elliptic, 2/5- 1 1/5 in. (1-3 cm) long, dotted with many pellucid glands.

Stems

Erect with numerous branches and up to 3 ft tall; often reddish in color and become woody at the base with maturity.

Flowers



Bright yellow flowers develop at the tips of the stems, flowers have five petals and many stamens, 5/8-1 in wide, petals typically have black glands along the margins.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are three-chambered capsules with three persistent styles, contains numerous dark brown to black cylinder-shaped seeds.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in disturbed sites, rangelands, pastures, roadsides and forest clearings.

Reproduction

By seeds and short runners.

Similar

Spotted St. Johnswort (*Hypericum punctatum*), which has black dots and streaks along the interior of the flower petals while others have black dots.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hard to control. Physical and Chemical controls have been ineffective due to extensive root system and wax on its leaves.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Invasive Plant Atlas and the USDA PLANTS database. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be

included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).