

Sulphur cinquefoil

Potentilla recta

Description

Used for its medicinal properties. Also fruit of plant is edible.

Habit

Erect; perennial; 16-32 in tall; hairy forb; unbranched to the inflorescence; woody taproot with short branch roots, no rhizomes.

Leaves

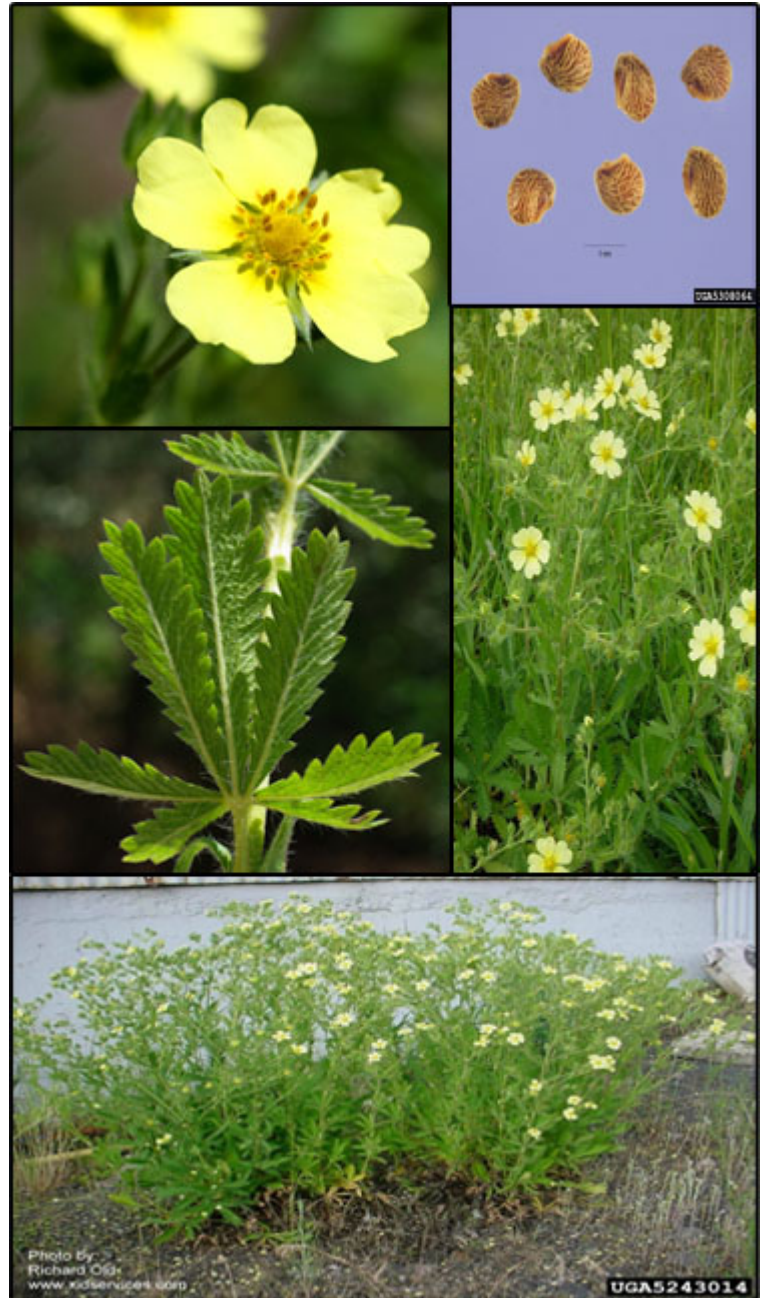
Palmately-divided, deeply-toothed, lower leaves long-stalked with 5-7 leaflets; upper leaves smaller, shorter stalked and with 3 leaflets.

Stems

Erect; upright; slender; 20-80 cm (8-30 in) tall; upper portion may be branched; long hairs perpendicular to leafstalk and stem.

Flowers

Pale yellow in color, 5-parted, 3/4 in wide, inflorescence of many flowers in flattened, branched cluster (cyme); blooms June through





August.

Fruits and Seeds

Achene strongly veined, brownish-purple, 1 mm long.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Found in dry, disturbed sites.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively by sprouting from a caudex.

Similar

Foliage has some resemblance to Marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*) but marijuana is taller with different flowers. Other species of Cinquefoil (*Potentilla* spp.) are difficult to distinguish.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling or dig up, or by spot spraying of herbicides. The root crown (upper portion of the root system) must be removed or killed so that plants cannot resprout.

Credits

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