

Tall buttercup

Ranunculus acris

Description

Contains a bitter, irritating oil called protoanemonin that is toxic. Causes irritation or blistering of the skin.

Habit

Erect; perennial; 10-40 in tall; hairy forb.

Leaves

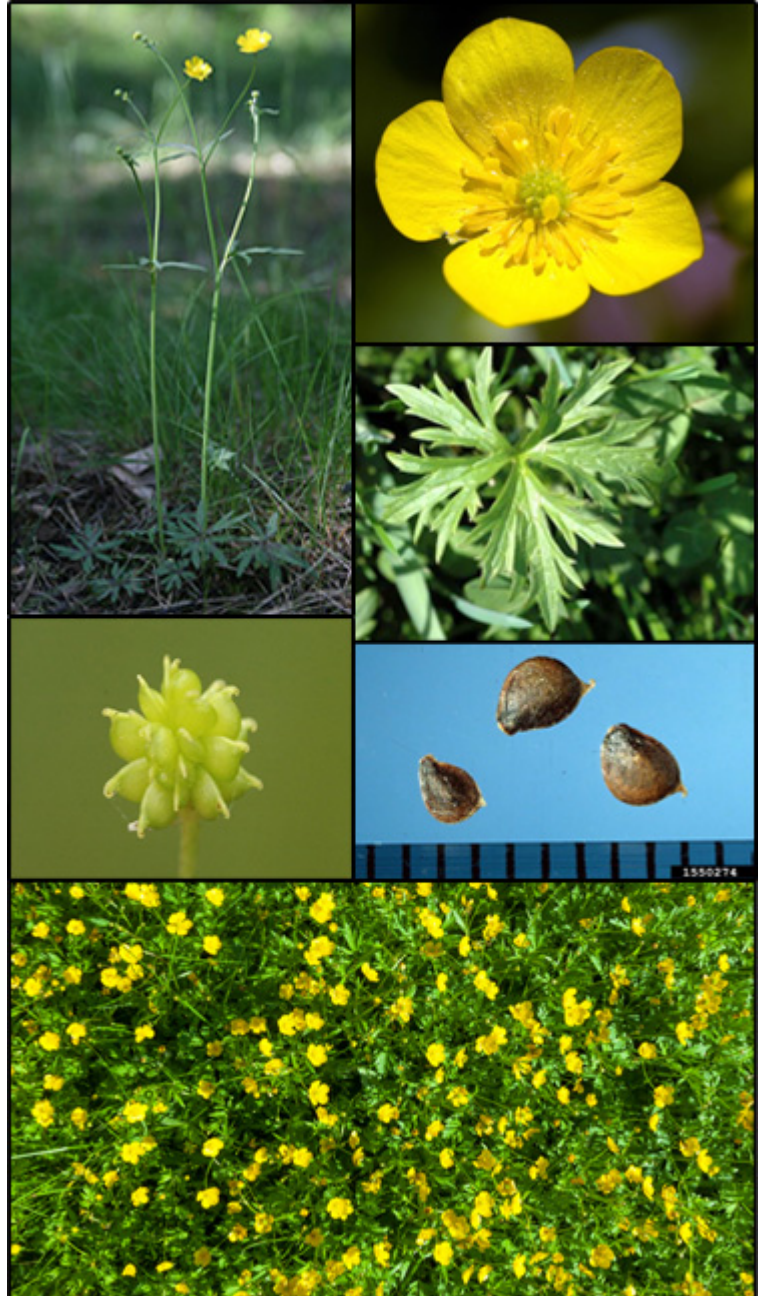
Basal and stem leaves much the same shape, mostly found below the middle of the stem, kidney-shaped, deeply 3 lobed then cut or toothed.

Stems

Erect; hollow; sometimes hairy; highly branched in the upper part of the plant; grows to 90 cm tall.

Flowers

Bright yellow, 5-parted, 2/3-1 1/4 in wide, normally 5 sepals, shiny petals broadly obovate and twice as long as the sepals; blooms May through October.





Fruits and Seeds

Clustered, prickly, can attach to hair and clothing, tiny, black in color, produces 250 seeds, viable for 2-4 years.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in moist, disturbed sites.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*); St. Anthony's turnip/Bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*); Littleleaf buttercup (*Ranunculus abortivus*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Pastures should be ploughed and reseeded. Close mowing prior to flowering, hand-pulling (be sure to wear gloves due to toxicity). Herbicides can be effective.

Credits

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