

## Sulphur Cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)

SC POTE REC

Erect, long-lived perennial 0.3 to 0.8 metres tall. Older plants often form a ring-shaped clump as old roots die in the center and new shoots grow on the outside edges. Native to Eurasia.



### Distribution

Found throughout the Southern Interior.

### Quick ID

Pale yellow flower with 5 petals.  
Long, stiff hairs perpendicular to stem.  
Relatively few leaves at plant base.  
Underside of leaf is green, not silver.  
Palmate leaves.

### Interesting Facts:

Unpalatable to grazing animals due to high tannin content.

### “Look-Alike” Species

Many native cinquefoils, such as *Potentilla gracilis*, appear similar but Sulphur cinquefoil can be distinguished by long, right angled hairs; numerous stem leaves but few basal leaves; and leaves that appear green on the underside.



**Manual Treatment:** Although primarily a seed producer, simply eliminating seed production is not very effective in reducing or eliminating sulphur cinquefoil infestations. Plants are able to perpetuate by vegetative growth and continue to slowly spread. Hand-pulling is effective on small infestations provided the entire root is removed.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------	-----	------	-----	-----	-----

**Flowers:** Pale yellow flowers, 1.3 to 2.5 cm in diameter, five heart-shaped petals; bright yellow centers. Contain 25 to 30 stamens. Found on top of stems.

**Leaves and Stems:** A rosette on long-stalked leaves develops first and withers before flowering. Stems and leaves are covered with long, coarse, shiny hairs at right angles. Stem leaves are alternate, green on the underside, and composed of 5 to 7 leaflets with toothed margins. Leaflets appear like marijuana leaves (palmately compound).



**Seeds:** Oval shaped dark brown seeds covered with net-like ridges.

**Roots:** Woody taproot may have several spreading roots or stolons, but no rhizomes.

**Reproduction and Dispersal:** Primarily by seed. Most seeds fall near parent plant and disperse greater distances with water, soil movement, human activities and animals. Seeds survive three years or longer.

**Habitat Preference:** Disturbed areas, grasslands, open forests, shrubby areas, roadsides and fields. Can invade healthy plant communities but does not tolerate full shade. Associated with knapweed infestations.

