

Sulfur cinquefoil

Potentilla recta L.

Rose family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Has five pale, 'sulfur' yellow, heart shaped petals per flower in flat-topped clusters
- ❑ Each compound leaf has 5-7 toothed leaflets
- ❑ The sparsely hairy leaves appear green on the underside, not silvery as with native cinquefoils ("green & green = mean"; "green & white, it's all right")
- ❑ Palmate toothed leaves resemble Marijuana
- ❑ Lower leaves are alternate on long hairy stems
- ❑ Stiffly erect stalks or clumps with woody base



Biology and ecology

- A perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall, with a tap root
- Sometimes scattered but can form monocultures in range, roadsides and abandoned fields and even undisturbed areas
- Unpalatable to livestock and wildlife
- Flowers from May to July
- Has extensive woody rootstocks
- Many native cinquefoils in our area but flowers are either white or brighter yellow/gold

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area

Biological - None available at this time

Cultural - Competitive vegetative cover helps but does not completely prevent infestation

Mechanical - Repeated tillage or digging is effective

Chemical - Several herbicides effective at label rates but may require repeat treatment because of extensive woody root system

Where found – Scattered through out Stevens County with dense stands in some range, waste and untended field situations, especially in southern reaches