

Sulfur cinquefoil Fact Sheet

Potentilla recta

Rosaceae Family



Montana Weed Awareness & Education Program Archive, MSU, Bugwood.org



Ohio State Weed Lab Archive, OSU, Bugwood.org



King County Weed Program

Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Light yellow flowers with 5 heart-shaped petals surrounding a darker yellow center.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Reproduces primarily by seed. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for 4 years.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Palmately lobed with 5 to 7 long leaflets, *green* on the underside, unlike native cinquefoils which are silver.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** May - July, produces seed in July.
- ❺ **Life cycle/ other:** 1-3 ft tall perennial. Plants have a deep taproot surrounded by shallow, spreading roots which regenerate annually allowing some plants to live up to 20 years.

Impacts:

- Highly invasive and quickly out competes native plants.
- Adaptable to many different habitats ranging from wet meadows to dry rangeland, and does not need a disturbance to invade a new area.
- Can significantly reduce the forage value of a pasture or rangeland and is one of the last plants to be grazed by most animals except for goats.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Control:

- For small infestations, pull or dig up plants and remove as much root as possible so the plant will not re-sprout. Monitor through-out the year for missed plants or re-sprouts.
- For larger infestations, a chemical application using a selective broadleaf herbicides combined with a surfactant is recommended. Recent research found picloram, triclopyr, and dicamba to be the most effective when combined with seeding of native grasses. (Invasive Plant Science and Management, Jan- March 2008, Vol. 1, Issue 1, Article: pp. 50-58)
- After applying the herbicide, do not cut down the treated plants until they have died completely. This can take two weeks or more.



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