

Smooth groundcherry

Physalis longifolia Nutt. var. *subglabrata*

(Mackenzie & Bush) Cronq.

Life cycle

Erect, branching, rhizomatous perennial.

Leaves

Alternate, egg-, lance- to diamond-shaped with entire to toothed margins and long petioles.

Leaves are smooth to slightly hairy.

Stems

Erect, branching, angled, up to 3-foot-tall herbaceous stems that become smooth and semiwoody with age.

Flowers and fruit

Flowers have five yellow to greenish yellow petals with purple centers, fused into a bell shape and found drooping and solitary in branch and leaf axils. Fruit are orange, red or purple, globe-shaped berries surrounded by a green,



Young smooth groundcherry plant.

Smooth groundcherry *continued*

lantern-shaped, papery bladder. Each fruit contains many flat, circular to kidney-shaped seeds.

Reproduction

Seeds and rhizomes.



Smooth groundcherry flower.



Smooth groundcherry leaf.



Smooth groundcherry plant.

Solanaceae (Nightshade family)

Smooth groundcherry *continued*

Similar weeds

Apple of Peru

[*Nicandra physalodes* (L.) Gaertn.]

Differs by having an aggressive, annual habit, being up to 4 feet tall and having blue, upward facing, bell-shaped flowers.



Apple of Peru fruit.



Apple of Peru flower.



Apple of Peru foliage, flowers and fruit.

Solanaceae (Nightshade family)