

Horsenettle

Solanum carolinense L.

Life cycle: Spreading to erect, patch-forming perennial.

Leaves: Alternate, egg-shaped, shallowly to deeply lobed, 2 to 5 inches long with sharp, prominent prickles on the leaf veins, midveins and petioles. Star-shaped hairs are present on both leaf surfaces.



Horsenettle mature berries.

Stems: Spreading to erect, herbaceous stems with multiple branching, up to 3 feet in height. Stems have sharp, prominent prickles and star-shaped hairs.

Flowers and fruit: Flowers are white to pale purple, star-shaped with five petals fused at the base and found in clusters on prickly flowering stalks. Flower centers consist of bright yellow, cone-shaped anthers. Berries are yellow at maturity, globe-shaped, wrinkled and approximately 0.5 inch across, and contain up to 170 seeds.

Reproduction: Seeds and deeply penetrating vertical to horizontal creeping roots.

Toxicity: All plant parts are toxic to animals.



Horsenettle plant.

All photos this page: Steven A. Gower



Sharp, prominent prickles of horsenettle.



Horsenettle leaf.