

## Eastern black nightshade

*Solanum ptycanthum* Dun.

### Life cycle

Erect, branching summer annual.

### Leaves

Seedlings have small, egg-shaped cotyledons with a pointed tip and a purplish tinge underneath followed by alternate, petiolated, simple leaves. First leaves are generally smooth, egg-shaped with wavy margins and a purplish tinge underneath; later leaves are slightly hairy, egg- to diamond-shaped with entire to irregularly toothed margins.

### Stems

Erect and branching, up to 3-foot-tall stems with few hairs.

### Flowers and fruit

Flowers are white to purple tinged, star-shaped with five petals fused at the base surrounding five bright yellow anthers; found in downward facing clusters. Berries are glossy black at maturity and globe-shaped, and contain up to 110 seeds.



Eastern black nightshade seedling.



Eastern black nightshade mature berries.

**Solanaceae (Nightshade family)**

## Eastern black nightshade *continued*

### Reproduction

Seeds.

### Toxicity

All plant parts are toxic to animals.



Young eastern black nightshade plant.



Upper leaf surface of eastern black nightshade.



Purplish lower leaf surface of eastern black nightshade.

**Solanaceae (Nightshade family)**

## Eastern black nightshade *continued*

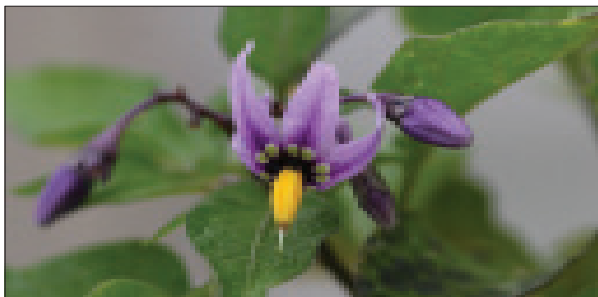
### Similar weeds

#### **Bittersweet nightshade** (*S. dulcamara* L.)

Differs by having a vining, perennial habit; leaves that are oval to egg-shaped with pointed tips, smooth margins and usually two basal lobes; and purple to blue flowers that yield bright red, oval berries at maturity.



Left: Mature berries of bittersweet nightshade. Right: Bittersweet nightshade leaf.



Bittersweet nightshade flower.

**Solanaceae (Nightshade family)**