

Velvetleaf

Abutilon theophrasti Medicus



Life cycle

Erect summer annual.

Leaves

Seedlings have one heart-shaped cotyledon and one nearly round cotyledon with short hairs on both surfaces. Leaves are alternate, broadly heart-shaped, 3 to 8 inches long and nearly as wide with narrow, pointed tips and long, slender petioles.



Velvetleaf seedling.



Velvetleaf plant.

Malvaceae (Mallow family)

Leaves have round-toothed margins and softly hairy surfaces that feel velvety.

Stems

Erect, up to 7-foot-tall stems with little branching are covered with short, velvety hairs and may persist through the winter.

Flowers and fruit

Yellow to yellow-orange, five-petaled flowers form solitarily on short stalks in the upper leaf axils. Fruit are approximately 1-inch-wide, bowl-shaped, green capsules that turn dark brown at maturity. Each capsule has nine to 15 compartments, each containing three to nine grayish brown, somewhat flattened and notched seeds.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Velvetleaf fruit and flower.