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 smooth 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.](image1)

![Eastern black nightshade mature berries.](image2)
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.

Puplish lower leaf surface of eastern black nightshade.

Solanaceae (Nightshade family)