

NOT-SO-RARE PLANT SEARCH

Sulfur cinquefoil, a new weed, is outcompeting native plants & reducing biological diversity in the Northern Rockies (see Kelsey, Winter 1991). Peter Rice is searching for sulfur cinquefoil sites in Montana & adjoining states. Especially outside of Missoula & Ravalli Counties, & in forest habitat types in any county. You can help increase our knowledge of the distribution, ecology, and management of this noxious weed by sending him:

1. General locale, including county, of the sulfur cinquefoil infestation.
2. Township, Range, Section, 1/4 Section if known.
- and/or 3. Map copy or sketch to help him locate the site.
4. Who to contact if permission is necessary for him to visit the infested site.

Sulfur cinquefoil is sometimes confused with northwest cinquefoil, our most common & variable native cinquefoil. Hairs on northwest cinquefoil are short relative to stem diameter & are either spreading at multiple angles or appressed flat to the surface. Sulfur cinquefoil hairs are long relative to stem diameter & project outward at right angles. Sticky cinquefoil (Potentilla glandulosa Lindl.), a second widespread native, has pinnately compound leaves & exudes a sticky resin.

Northwest Cinquefoil (Potentilla gracilis Dougl.)

1. short spreading hairs
2. few stem leaves, mostly basal leaves
3. most with a dense woolly (tomentose) underleaf
4. seed coat smooth
5. well developed rhizomes
6. flowers brighter yellow
7. leaves more green to gray
8. about 20 stamens
9. leaflet serrations sometimes deep

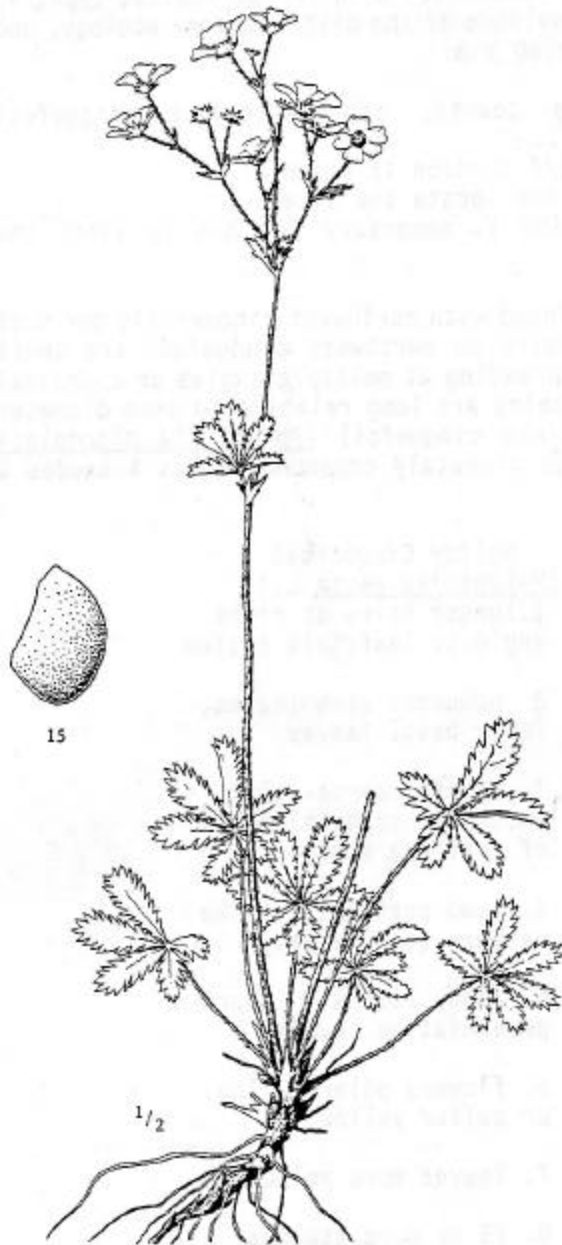
Sulfur Cinquefoil (Potentilla recta L.)

1. longer hairs at right angle to leafstalk & stem
2. numerous stem leaves, fewer basal leaves
3. sparse coarse-stiff pubescence so both sides of leaf are similar.
4. seed coat has netlike pattern (reticulate)
5. woody root with short perenniating caudex
6. flowers paler yellow or sulfur yellow
7. leaves more yellowish
8. 25 or more stamens
9. leaflet serrations 1/2 way to midvein

If identification is uncertain please include some specimens with roots and seeds if possible.

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NORTHWEST CINQUEFOIL
Potentilla gracilis Dougl.



SULFUR CINQUEFOIL
Potentilla recta L.

