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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.



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)