

CINQUEFOIL

Rough Cinquefoil
(*Potentilla norvegica*)



Upright Cinquefoil
(*Potentilla recta*)



Rough cinquefoil, sometimes commonly called barren strawberry or tall five-finger, is an annual, winter annual, or biennial. It spreads by seed. Normally this weed is found along roadsides, waste areas, in meadowland or pastures. It frequents dry soils. Plants are able to withstand drought and thrive from June until October, and are found in eastern two-thirds of the United States from Mason-Dixon line northward into Canada. It was introduced from Eurasia, though some forms appear to be native to North America.

Rather stout stems are rough, hairy, and can be semierect or spreading. Note base of plant and roots (1). Leaves are palmately divided and resemble strawberry plants with 3 leaflets (2). Small flowers grow in clusters at tips of branches (3). Petals are yellow. Seeds are about $\frac{1}{32}$ inch long and light brown (4). Plants grow 1 to 3 feet tall.

Upright cinquefoil or sulphur cinquefoil like the rough cinquefoil is also a dry weather plant. It thrives from June through August on dry, gravelly, or stony soils. Is most troublesome in limestone regions. Eastern half of Minnesota and Iowa, and most of Missouri form western boundary of infestations. Plant ranges eastward over same area as rough cinquefoil. It was originally introduced from Europe.

Leaves are alternate and palmately divided with 5 to 7 coarsely toothed leaflets (5). Shallow root system (6) can be destroyed by cultivation. Plant, with erect or spreading and hairy stems, grows 1 to 3 feet tall (7). Flowers about 1 inch (8), are perfect, regular and found in many-flowered, compact, and almost leafless cymes. Calyx is hairy. Plant is a perennial and reproduces by seed (9).

Both types of cinquefoil are susceptible to 2,4-D at rates of 1 pound per acre. Clean cultivation or mowing when flowers first appear are also claimed to control this weed.

(DRAWING FROM NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PUBLICATION NO. 36, USDA EXTENSION SERVICE)

Cables, Braces Help Shade Tree Survive Violent Storms

Installation of cables and braces to give branches additional strength is decidedly useful in preventing storm damage to the tree, repairing injuries, and as a safety measure when large limbs overhang buildings or other property.

In some trees, either as an inherent characteristic or because of improper pruning when young, major branches develop from a narrow-angled, V-shaped crotch. As the branches increase in diameter they become tightly appressed, but the bark in the crotch below the point of apparent junction acts as a barrier that hinders or prevents the growth of uniting wood fibers. As a result of this weak union, splitting at the crotch is likely to occur during a storm or even from the weight of abundant foliage. Often the splitting is so severe that the tree is damaged beyond satisfactory repair.

Since these structurally weak crotches develop gradually over a period of years and are obvious long before splitting occurs, there is ample opportunity for protective treatment. If the tree is young and vigorously growing, often one of the two branches may be removed without permanently impairing the shape and beauty of the tree.

In mature trees where branches growing from tight crotches are of equal importance, the National Arborist Association recommends that mechanical support be provided. Usually this consists of installing one or more brace rods at the crotch and placing a system of flexible wire cables high in the crown of the tree, thus "tying" the major branches together. In repair treatment where crotch splitting has occurred, the branches are drawn together with block and tackle until the crack closes; then the brace rods and cables are installed.

In aged trees that stand near a house, large branches of great weight frequently overhang the roof. While these branches may appear perfectly sound, there is

always the danger that they may break during storms and cause extensive damage to the building. This danger may be substantially reduced by properly installed supporting cables.

In attaching cables to branches, screw hooks with lag threads are generally used; never is the cable wrapped around the branch. Skill and experience are needed to locate the cables in the tree so they will function most effectively.

Dowpon Chemical Lawn Edger

A chemical can now be used to accomplish one of the more difficult chores of lawn management, reports J. P. Fullmer, Clemson University horticulturist. Checking on the use of Dowpon as a lawn edger, Fullmer finds users are said to be highly pleased with this herbicide.

"Edging with Dowpon is now one of the easiest jobs," Fullmer says.

To chemically edge unwanted grass from walks, driveways, trees, and flower beds, a compressed air knapsack sprayer is used. This sprayer should be used exclusively for herbicides since residual weedkilling chemicals remaining in the sprayer could injure or kill plants if you were to use it for other spraying jobs later.

Mixing two tablespoons of Dowpon for each gallon of water makes an effective solution. Direct spray on unwanted grass enough to wet the leaves and avoiding runoff, Fullmer recommends.

Two applications are required to give a satisfactory kill. A second spraying 7 to 10 days following the first will give good results. Applications may have to be repeated during the growing season.

Dowpon may be used to edge grass around some trees and shrubs. But since the material does injure some plants, Fullmer makes no blanket recommendation. Applicators can obtain more information about Dowpon by writing to The Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich.

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