

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## VELVETLEAF

*(Abutilon theophrasti)*

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Native to Asia
- Annual, shrub-like herb
- Erect stems grow 1 to 2 m tall, with increased branching in the upper portion
- Leaves and stems covered with dense hairs, soft to the touch
- Large, alternate, heart-shaped leaves, 8 to 20 cm long and wide, with toothed edges
- Leaf veins originate at a common point and emit a foul odour when crushed
- Flowers are yellow to orange with 5 petals, appearing late July to August
- Seeds produced in a circular capsule of 12 to 15 seedpods (1 to 2.5 cm long) with a ring of 'prickles' around the upper edge
- Slender taproot with fibrous branches
- Prefers roadsides, ditches, riverbanks, disturbed areas, gardens and cultivated fields
- Reproduces by seed
- Local dispersal mainly by humans, animals and equipment. Ornamental plantings and contaminated feed, soya bean and imported grains are the main pathways for long distance spread.



Photo: Lisa Scott

**REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES**

[www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca)

**1-888-WEEDSBC**



Photo: Lisa Scott

**PRIMARY THREAT: Significantly reduces soya bean and maize crop yield and quality.**

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Velvetleaf produces 700 to 17,000 highly viable seeds per plant. Seeds can remain viable in soil for over 50 years and can germinate throughout the year.

#### LOOK-ALIKES

Venice mallow, Prickly sida/teaweed, Spurred anoda, Tropic croton, Common mallow, Morning glory, Wild buckwheat, Violets, Sunflower, Common burdock, Cocklebur.



Virginia Tech Weed ID Guide

#### DISTRIBUTION IN BC

*No confirmed presence in BC.*

For more information: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm)

