

# CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

## American black nightshade, common nightshade (*Solanum americanum*)

**By Stephen H. Futch  
and David W. Hall**

**Season:** summer annual or short-lived perennial

**Plant height:** herbaceous, up to 4 feet tall

**Stem:** erect, smooth, branched, base may be woody

**Leaves:** alternate, stalked, blades elliptical to somewhat lance-shaped; to 4 inches long and 2 inches wide;



sparingly hairy, mostly along the margins; margins smooth or with a few rough teeth; seedling blades green underneath

**Flower:** in stalked clusters, from leaf axils, star-shaped, white petals curving out and backward with yellow protruding stamens

**Fruit:** shiny berry, one-quarter

to one-third inch in diameter, green and turning purplish-black at maturity.

**Seed:** 50 to 110 per berry

**Distribution:** found throughout Florida in disturbed sites, open woods, fields, cultivated areas, and pastures; also found in Gulf coast states to California, north to North Dakota and Maine and into Central America and South America

The entire plant and fruits should be considered as poisonous.

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