

CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

Heartleaf ground-cherry (*Physalis cordata*)

By Stephen H. Futch
and David W. Hall

Life cycle: herbaceous annual, with a taproot

Plant height: up to 3 feet tall

Leaves: alternate; long-stalked; blades ovate to somewhat lance-shaped; 1.5 inches to 5 inches in length, margins usually deeply toothed

Stem: erect, smooth, angled, branched

Flowers: yellow, bell-shaped, five-lobed with a brownish spot near the base of each lobe, three-eighths to one-half inch wide; anthers bluish to greenish-blue, up to one-sixteenth inch long; flowers during warm months

Seeds: small, about one-sixteenth inch in length, somewhat flattened and kidney-shaped, tan; vary from five or six to many.



Fruit: round, yellow, up to one-half inch diameter; enclosed in a ribbed, green, papery pod, three-quarter to 1¼ inch long

Distribution: found throughout

Florida; north to South Carolina and Pennsylvania; west to Oklahoma, Texas and California; south through Mexico into Central America, and the West Indies

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