

## Velvetleaf

### Overview

Velvetleaf is easily identifiable by its heart-shaped leaves and the soft hairs that give it its name. Originally brought to the U.S. as a source of fiber, it is now considered a weed. When velvetleaf emerges at the same time as soybeans, it can reduce yield by more than 25%.

### What you should know

- Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*) is an annual weed that can cause significant yield loss when it emerges before or at the same time as crops.
- Velvetleaf seedlings can be confused with prickly sida, which begins to emerge at the same time and begins with two heart-shaped cotyledons. Velvetleaf has one heart-shaped and one round cotyledon at emergence.
- Velvetleaf leaves are heart-shaped and covered in hairs. Velvetleaf stems, which are also hairy, can reach 7 feet. Both the leaves and stem emit an unpleasant odor when crushed. Velvetleaf flowers are yellow-orange with five petals.
- Velvetleaf seeds can remain dormant and viable for up to 60 years, making it difficult to eradicate completely.

### Action steps

1. **Treat before emergence:** Pre-emergent herbicides are most effective in controlling velvetleaf
2. **Treat at mid-day:** Velvetleaf leaves droop extensively from late evening until early morning, so post-emergent herbicide applications are most effective during the middle of the day when its leaf surface area is greatest.

<https://ipm.missouri.edu/IPCM/2015/5/Weed-of-the-Month-Velvetleaf/>



*Each velvetleaf seedling has a round cotyledon and a heart-shaped cotyledon.*



### 30-Second Summary

- Velvetleaf is characterized by heart-shaped leaves with soft hairs.
- It is difficult to eradicate because seeds can lie dormant for decades.
- Pre-emergent herbicides are most effective. Post-emergent herbicides should be applied mid-day for greatest effectiveness.

### NOTES:

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For more information, contact:



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