

Black Nightshade



Seedling. Key characteristics: hypocotyl has hairs; often, the underside of the leaves will have maroon-colored markings; leaves are alternate.





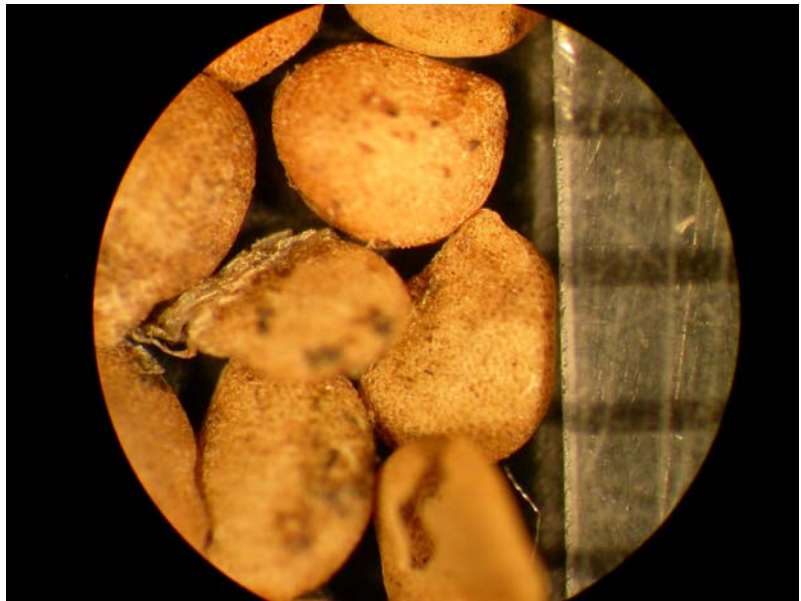
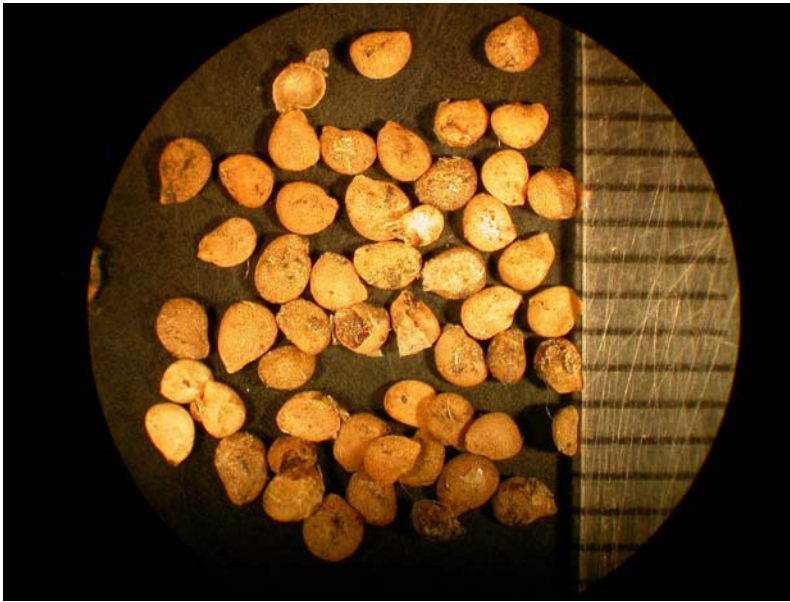
Vegetative plant. Key characteristics: leaf margins range from entire to having coarse teeth; stems are often maroon-black in color; leaves often have "shot-hole" appearance from flea beetle feeding activity. Leaf hair varies depending upon species.



Flower. Key characteristics: white, star-shaped, and occur in clusters.



Fruit. Key characteristics: occur in clusters, round, change from green to black at maturity. Green fruit is toxic.



Seed of *Solanum ptycanthum* are rounded, rough-textured and have a diameter of approximately 1.5 mm.

Life cycle: summer annual.

Toxic Plant: All animals, including pets, may be affected by consuming black nightshade. All parts of the plant are potentially toxic; the berries are often higher in toxicity. The nightshade plants cause problems with the gastrointestinal tract and can also affect the central nervous system. Signs can include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, incoordination, weakness, depression, apparent hallucinations, convulsions, and possible death.