

Nightshades, *Solanum* ssp.



Identification: Erect or trailing annual or perennial. Leaves range from ovate sinuate-toothed to heart-shaped with basal leaflets, depending on species. Flowers with five petals, arranged as a star, either white (*S. nigrum*) or purple with distinct yellow anthers (*S. dulcamara*). Fruits green when immature, turning black (*S. nigrum*) or red (*S. dulcamara*) when ripe.

Habitat: Roadsides, fencerows, ditches, cultivated fields and hedgerows

Animals Affected: Livestock and humans

Toxin Family: Steroidal glycoalkaloids

Other: Decreased heart and respiratory rates, muscle weakness, colic; can lead to cardiac arrest. Rarely eaten unless no other forage is present. Bright berries of *S. dulcamara* can be attractive to children.