Sulphur Cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)

**Description**
This perennial herb is a tufted plant growing from a woody taproot or caudex. It produces upright to erect leafy stems up to 80 centimeters tall. The leaves are palmate, divided into usually 6 or 7 leaflets, sometimes up to nine. The green to yellow-green leaves may be up to 15 centimeters long, with the central leaflet reaching 8 centimeters in length. The leaflets are hairy in texture and toothed along the edges. The inflorescence is a cyme of several flowers which are generally light to pale yellow in color, with white to gold-flowered individuals occurring at times. The plant may reproduce by seed or vegetatively by sprouting new shoots from its caudex.

**Key Identifiers**
- Palmate leaves, 5-7 leaflets, uniformly toothed margins
- Yellow flowers, 5 petals with distinctive notch, produced throughout the growing season
- Hairs cover all parts of the plant except the flowers

**Location in Canada**
Sulphur Cinquefoil occurs from British Columbia east to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Plants are expected to be in Alberta but locations have not been confirmed.

**Resources**
- [http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=4431](http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=4431)

**Similar species**
**Slender Cinquefoil** (*Potentilla gracilis*) - mostly basal leaves, is shorter and has white wooly hair on the undersurface of leaves.
- [http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?where-genre=Plant&where-taxon=Potentilla+gracilis](http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?where-genre=Plant&where-taxon=Potentilla+gracilis)

*Potentilla recta* is often confused with native cinquefoils that are found in the Pacific Northwest, but can be easily distinguished by its 3 unique characteristics: 1) long, right angled hairs perpendicular to the leafstalks and stem, 2) numerous stem leaves but few basal leaves, and 3) a net-like pattern on its seed coat.