

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH419



### POTENTILLA

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Cinquefoil
- Scientific name: *Potentilla sp.*
- Native to most of the Northern Hemisphere
- Deciduous shrub growing 1-4' tall
- Yellow or pink buttercup-like flowers bloom from June until first frost
- Hardy in zones 2-7

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers full sun but will tolerate partial shade
- Prefers well-drained, fertile media but will tolerate clay, rocky, or alkaline soils

- Minimal feeding needs; annual mulch with well rotted compost will suffice

#### PROPAGATION

- Easily propagated from seed
- Sow seeds indoors in winter or early spring
- Germination will occur in 5-9 days
- Seedlings can be transplanted 2-3 weeks after sowing
- Can also be propagated by division or from softwood cuttings

#### DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca macularis*)

- White coating forms on upper leaves
- Foliage wilts and turns brown
- Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Spider mites
  - Feed on leaves, leaving them yellow and stippled
  - Make sure plants are regularly watered
  - Remove infested plants

### **CONSUMER CARE**

- Remove oldest stems in late winter to prevent plants from becoming leggy
- Excellent addition to a rock garden or perennial border
- Attracts butterflies

### **CULTIVARS AND SPECIES**

- *Potentilla nepalensis*
  - 'Miss Wilmott': cherry pink flowers
- *Potentilla neumanniana*
  - 'Nana': rose-like, butter yellow flowers

### **References**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potentilla>  
<http://www.gardenaction.co.uk/plantfinder/potentilla-2.asp>  
<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/Potentilla.htm>

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