

Small Shrub (2—5')  
Deciduous

Map #68

*Potentilla*  
(*Potentilla fruticosa*)  
Family: *Rosaceae*



**Leaves:** pinnately compound, each 1" long leaf may have 3 to 7 linear elliptic or linear oblong leaflets. They are silky pubescent, and the margins are rolled downward (revolute). Plants classified as var. *parvifolia* have 1/2" leaves and 1/4" leaflets.

**Buds:** alternate, brown, extremely small, slightly fuzzy and covered with a single scale.

**Stems:** These wispy, shiny brown stems have a fine silky fuzz on young growth, becoming smooth and exfoliating with age. Cup-shaped, 1/4" wide remnants of the fruit display are often present on stem ends through the winter.

**Bark:** smooth and exfoliating with age.

**Flowers:** yellow, 3/4 - 1 1/4" flowers appear from June through frost, borne singly or in clusters of up to four. The color intensity of the flowers can fade over time in some cultivars. Selections with white and orange flowers are also available. Although red forms are advertised, to date, they offer an orange-yellow at best and fade considerably in full sun. Some of the newest selections are white with a pink blush or even light pink.

**Fruits:** The fruit is non-ornamental brown, hard and dry, borne in a 1/4 - 1/3" terminal cup-shaped structures that persist through the winter.

**Habit:** Rounded to broad-rounded with upright branching

**Culture:** full sun is required for good flowering. Adaptable, preferring cool, moist soil but tolerating even very dry conditions. Since it is a multistemmed, suckering-type shrub which flowers on new wood, it can be rejuvenated by pruning to the ground every spring or only every couple of years and renovated by removing a couple of the largest, oldest stems in other years.

**Cultivars:** Dozens of yellows, a few whites and a couple peachy ones called red or orange! (See photos other side.) *Jackmanii* - Extremely adaptable. Tolerates poor dry soils as well as wet areas. Taller and larger leafed than other cultivars.

**Miscellaneous:** Was once far more popular, but fell from grace as plants left unpruned became shabby. The lesson: prune annually. Another common name is Bush Cinquefoil.

**Related species:** None





Abbottswood



McKay's White



Snowbird



Gold Drop



Kathrine Dykes



Gold Finger



Red Sunset



Jackmanii



Primrose Beauty

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