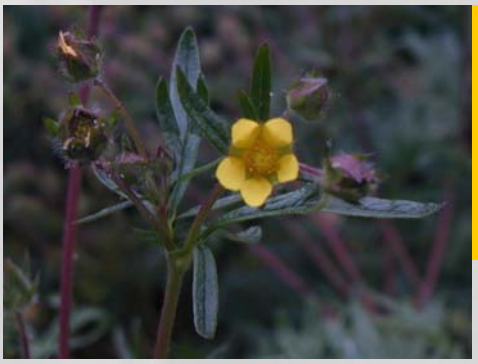


Mentasta Germplasm staghorn cinquefoil

Potentilla bimundorum (Potentilla multifida)

Selected Class Release "Natural"

Uses: Landscape and Revegetation

Interior and Southcentral Alaska

Background Information

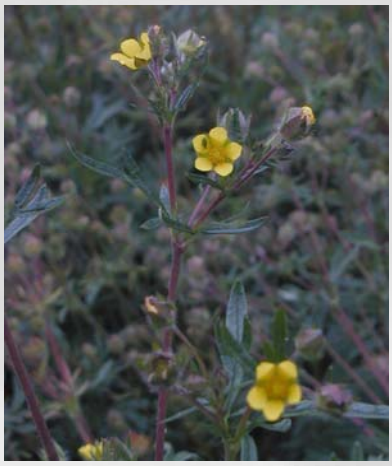
Staghorn cinquefoil grows in dry areas. According to Hultén (1968) it can be found on gravel bars, dry slopes, and open ground.

Potentilla bimundorum is a perennial. It usually is found hugging the ground, but can grow up to 30 cm tall in fertilized areas.

It has a heavy taproot, divided leaves, and small yellow flowers. The leaf underside is wooly (tomentose).

It blooms in June or July. As summer turns to fall, its leaves change to shades of red, orange, and yellow—making it a very attractive addition to the environment.

With the advantage of sophisticated taxonomical tools, botanists are now able to classify plants based on more than purely visible characteristics. Thus, what Hultén classified in Alaska as *Potentilla multifida*, is now recognized as being *Potentilla bimundorum* (Murray, 2007).



Map from Hultén, 1968.
Used with the permission of Stanford University Press.

Distribution

Potentilla bimundorum is circumpolar, but with large gaps. In North America it is found in Alaska, the Yukon Territory, and Northern Quebec (Cody, 2000).

Mentasta Germplasm staghorn cinquefoil seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production.

Mentasta Germplasm

Plant Identification Number: 9097747

Mentasta Germplasm staghorn cinquefoil was collected in 1995 by Stoney Wright. The original source was located in a gravelly area at an elevation of 1657 ft. near Tok, Alaska (Wright, 2007).

This native forb is a Selected Class Release by the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC). This means it has been grown and harvested at the PMC and continues to exhibit excellent performance.

This forb is recommended for use in revegetation because its seedlings are vigorous and able to survive in dry areas at many different elevations. Its fall colors enhance the visual effects of the finished project.

Interesting Notes

The name potentilla comes from the Latin "potens", which means powerful. The last part of the name means "little". Many potentillas were used in the past for medicines and protection (Moerman, 1988).

Alaska Plant Materials Center

Serving Alaska's needs in production of Alaska native plants

July 23, 2007

Mentasta Germplasm staghorn cinquefoil

Mentasta Germplasm
staghorn cinquefoil
for Landscape and Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Mentasta grows easily and quickly on floodplains, roadsides, and multiple upland sites—including talus slopes. It has a rapid growth rate, good tolerance to cold, and thrives on dry soil.

When the grass seed mix is spread evenly and Mentasta is at least 5% by weight of the seed mix, staghorn cinquefoil should perform vigorously and eventually contribute to the revegetation results.

Its leaves turn yellow, orange, or red in the fall. A natural perennial colonizer, staghorn cinquefoil will help stabilize the soil and live for several years.

***Potentilla bimundorum* seed**
~ 1,145,363 seeds per pound

Mentasta in production at the Alaska Plant Materials Center, Palmer, Alaska.

To Produce Mentasta

Conventional farm equipment is needed. A drill for seeding to a depth of ~1/4 inch is recommended. Soil should be well-drained.

Seed may be sown in either fall or spring. A fall seeding replicates natural conditions in Alaska and tends to encourage faster germination. If a fall seeding is not practical, the seed should be stored in dry, cool conditions for six months prior to seeding.

Harvest seems to work best by hand or small vacuum because the seeds ripen unevenly. Cleaning is easily accomplished with standard equipment—screens and air separator.

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