Cutleaf Ground-cherry, *Physalis angulata* L.¹

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**Classification**

Common Name: Cutleaf Ground-cherry

Scientific Name: *Physalis angulata* L.

Family: Solanaceae, Nightshade Family

**Seedling**

The cotyledons are ovate with reddish petioles and without a distinct midvein (Figure 1). The first leaves are similar in shape to the cotyledons, but with an acute apex and evident venation.

![Figure 1. Seedling, Cutleaf Ground-cherry, *Physalis angulata* L.](image)

**Mature Plant**

Cutleaf Ground-cherry is an annual herb growing to 1 m in height (Figure 2). It is usually hairless; however, occasional plants have short appressed hairs especially on the younger parts. The leaves are ovate to lanceolate, 4-10 cm long and 3-6 cm wide. The petioles are up to 4 cm long or longer. The leaf margin is usually irregularly toothed but may be smooth. The leaf bases are unequal. The flowers are borne on stalks from 5-40 mm in length. The corolla is yellow, usually without spots or occasionally with distinct spots, and is from 4-12 mm long and 6-12 mm wide. The anthers are bluish or violet, up to 2.5 mm long and are borne on stalks up to 5 mm long. The green outer layer is 4-7 mm long with triangular lobes about as long as the tube. The fruit is enclosed in the outer layer. This outer layer (calyx) grows around and encloses the fruit and becomes 10-angled or ribbed, 20-35 mm long and from 15-25 mm wide; it is borne on a stalk 1-4 cm long.

**History**

The genus name *Physalis*, a Greek word, means bladder and refers to the inflated calyx, while the
Latin species name *angulata* means angled and refers to the stems.

**Habitat**

This weed occurs in fields, pastures, roadsides and open woodlands throughout Florida to eastern Texas and northward to Pennsylvania. It prefers disturbed sites.

**Biology**

Maximum germination occurred at 21°C with 10 hours of alternating temperatures and 30°C with 14 hours of alternating temperatures. Planting depth directly affected emergence with a decrease from 89 percent to 0 percent with a corresponding increase of depth from 0.0 cm-10.0 cm. The many-seeded fruit is edible when ripe.