



Common mullein



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(*Verbascum thapsus* L.)

Common mullein is a biennial that produces a large rosette the first year of growth, with a deep, fibrous taproot. The leaves are alternate and both leaves and stems are covered with a thick layer of fine hairs. The plant bolts 2 to 6 feet tall and produces numerous, bright yellow, five-lobed flowers from June through August of the second year. Small dark seeds are contained in two chambered capsules and can germinate for many years.

Common mullein is a native of Asia but is now common throughout North America. This plant most often is found in gravelly, dry soils, waste areas and bottomlands. Livestock do not graze the plant because of the pubescence. Leaves were smoked by Europeans to relieve asthma and other pulmonary diseases. Hand pulling and digging are effective control measures.

