

# Why is this plant called bear's foot?

## Fun facts



Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

It has leaves shaped like a bear's foot! Its other common name is hairy leafcup, because the leaf makes a cup around the stem. The stem is hollow, and bees make winter nests inside – so it is important not to cut this plant down in the fall.

## Description and habitat

**Bear's foot or hairy leafcup** (*Smallanthus uvedalia*) belongs to the daisy family. It grows in woodland edges, meadows, along streams, and open woods. It prefers moist, well-drained soil, and sun to part shade.



Mary Voorhees, Virginia Master Naturalist



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It grows 3-8 feet tall, blooms in July to October, and has golden-yellow flowers that attract many insects including bees and butterflies. One mature hairy leafcup plant with multiple stems can grow several hundred flowerheads!

As an herbaceous perennial plant the top part dies back in winter and grows again from the roots in spring.

For additional information about bear's foot, click on the links below.

[\*\*Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora\*\*](#)

[\*\*US Forest Service\*\*](#)

[\*\*North Carolina State Extension\*\*](#)