

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Solanum douglasii – WHITE NIGHTSHADE [Solanaceae]

Solanum douglasii Dunal, WHITE NIGHTSHADE. Subshrub or perennial herb, often woody at base, branched throughout, in range < 160 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrescent to nearly glabrous [villous-strigose with unbranched hairs (not stellate)], sparsely glandular-hairy especially on new growth, not sticky. **Stems:** ridged aging cylindric, the ridges conspicuous and typically 2 per internode descending ridges of each leaf, green, with spreading hairs, ridges with small teeth. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole 2–30+ mm long, with ridged edges or winged grading into blade; blade ovate to broadly lanceolate or ovate-triangular, 7–100 × 3–70 mm, symmetric or asymmetric and rounded or truncate to broadly tapered or long-tapered at base, entire or with several broad teeth on margins, acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** cyme, typically appearing ± opposite a leaf, < 10-flowered, somewhat 1-sided or ± umbel-like with congested internodes at end of peduncle, flowers mostly erect to spreading, lacking bracts, strigose and sparsely short-glandular; peduncle 15–35 mm long; pedicel typically 5–9 mm long at anthesis and in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 15–20 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, ± 2 mm × 3 mm; tube to about midpoint, green or purple, becoming membranous between lobes, without conspicuous veins, short-strigose; lobes at anthesis spreading, ± equal, deltate, 0.5–1 mm, becoming slightly broader and spreading with enlarging fruit, persistent; **corolla** 5-lobed, cymbal-shaped (rotate) and star-shaped, white to light purple; tube absent; throat broadly flaring, 4 mm long, reinforced with 5 radiating spokes, the spokes narrowly triangular, greenish yellow or green, often shiny and sometimes outlined with purple; lobes spreading but becoming ± reflexed, narrowly triangular, 4.5–9 mm long, white to light purple, both surfaces minutely papillate and glistening-glandular, lower surface short-pubescent; **stamens** 5, fused to base of corolla, alternate with corolla lobes; filaments erect, 0.7–1.5 mm long, green, tomentose to midpoint; anthers erect, basifixed, dithecal, linear, 2.5–4.3 mm long, touching, bright yellow on outer side and light yellow on inner side, dehiscent by a terminal pore on inward-facing side of each anther sac and eventually longitudinally; pollen creamy white to pale yellow; **pistil** 1, 7–8 mm long; ovary superior, spheric, ± 1 mm, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules attached to center; style exerted 2–2.5 mm beyond anthers, 6–7 mm long, greenish, sometimes with colorless glandular hairs below midpoint; stigma narrowly capitate, small. **Fruit:** berry, 15–55-seeded, spheric, 6.5–9 mm, blackish purple; skin leathery and persistent; pulp greenish; calyx star-shaped, to 4 mm across, green drying brown, calyx lobes 3-nerved. **Seed:** discuslike and circular in outline, 1.2–1.5 mm diameter, brownish tan, glabrous.\

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