

CUCURBITACEAE – GOURD OR CUCUMBER FAMILY

Plant: herbs, climbing vines, rarely shrubs or trees

Stem: mostly vines locally, creeping and climbing using coiled tendrils, sometimes angled, sometimes hollow

Root:

Leaves: leaves alternate, simple to deeply palmately lobed (often maple-like) to rarely pinnately lobed; no stipules

Flowers: mostly imperfect (monoecious or dioecious), rarely perfect, regular (actinomorphic); sepals mostly 5-6-lobed; petals mostly 5-lobed but sometimes 6; 0-5 stamens; ovary inferior, 1 pistil, 1 to rarely 3 styles

Fruit: berry-like, with a rind, often very fleshy, or a capsule; 1 to many seeds; rarely spiny

Other: pumpkins, cantaloupes, squash, cucumbers, watermelons and gourds in this large family; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 130+ genera; locally *Cucurbita*, *Echinocystis*, *Melothria*, *Sicyos*

CUCURBITACEAE – GOURD OR CUCUMBER FAMILY

Missouri [Buffalo; Wild] Gourd [Pumpkin]; *Cucurbita foetidissima* Kunth
Wild Cucumber [White Balsam Apple]; *Echinocystis lobata* (Michx.) Torr. & Gray
[One-Seeded] Bur Cucumber; *Sicyos angulatus* L.

Missouri [Buffalo; Wild]

Gourd [Pumpkin]



Cucurbita foetidissima Kunth

Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Chase County,
Kansas

Notes: vine; monoecious, flowers yellow, large and
showy; leaves alternate, somewhat triangular,
cordate base, fine hairy above and below, long
pointed, somewhat lobed, bad odor when crushed;
stem fine hairy; fruit a gourd with seeds; summer

[V Max Brown, 2010]



Wild Cucumber [White Balsam Apple]

Echinocystis lobata (Michx.) Torr. & Gray

Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: vine; flowers white, staminate flowers (6-lobed) on erect racemes, pistillate flowers smaller and often in clusters; leaves 5-lobed on long petiole; tendrils forked; fruit with spines; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2003]



seed

[One-Seeded] Bur Cucumber

Sicyos angulatus L.

Cucurbitaceae (Gourd Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: pistillate flowers white to greenish-white in small clusters (shown below), staminate flowers in dense racemes; leaves mostly 5-lobed, base somewhat cordate; stem and pedicel hairy; fruit in clusters, with prickles, 1 seed; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2003]

