**Scientific Name:** *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata* (Ait.) Rydb.  
**Family:** *Rosaceae*

**Common Names:** three-toothed cinquefoil, shrubby five fingers

**Plant Description**
Low shrubby perennial with long creeping rootstocks and tufted leafy shoots, slightly woody at base; flowering stems 10 to 30 cm high; majority of leaves are near the base, firm textured trifoliate leaves, oblong lanceolate, 3 teeth near the apex of each leaflet (Moss 1983).

**Fruit:** Achenes borne in a head-like cluster (Johnson et al. 1995).

**Seed:** Brown to black, teardrop shaped to 1 mm long.

**Habitat and Distribution**
Prefers dry sandy areas and open pine forests (Budd and Best 1969).

**Seral Stage:** Early to mid-seral.

**Soil:** Gravelly, sterile, acidic (pH<6.8) soils (Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center 2009).

**Distribution:** Southwestern District of Mackenzie to Hudson Bay, northern Quebec, Newfoundland south to Alberta, Saskatchewan, North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, New York, Appalachia (Moss 1983).

**Phenology**
Plants bloom from June to August. Seeds mature in a type of pod which turns from green to grayish-brown during the 3 to 4 week period after blooming (Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center 2009).

**Pollination**
Possibly by insects (Hilty 2012).

**Seed Dispersal**
Unknown, but likely by passing animals, breaking papery receptacle.

**Genetics**
2n=14, 28 (Moss 1983).

**Symbiosis**
None known.

**Seed Processing**
**Collection:** Collect entire fruiting stalks; air-dry before cleaning.

**Seed Weight:** 0.39 g/1,000 seeds.
Harvest Dates: Middle to late August.
Cleaning: No cleaning required (Schultz et al. 2002). If entire stalks harvested, shake seeds from receptacles after drying. Screens can be used to separate seeds from husks.
Storage Behaviour: No literature found.
Storage: Refrigerate in airtight containers (Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center 2009).
Longevity: Seed maintains viability after one year of cool dry storage.

Direct Seeding: Fresh seed sown outdoors after harvest will germinate the next spring. Seedlings do not flower for two years (Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center 2011).
Vegetative Propagation: Vegetative propagation is S. tridentata’s main reproduction method (Marchand and Roach 1980). Plants can reproduce vegetatively by producing new plants from underground runners and are best divided in the fall (Hilty 2012).

Aboriginal/Food Uses
No literature found.

Reclamation Potential
S. tridentata was shown to be resistant to compaction and can grow in low nutrient conditions. In a case study done by Olfelt et al. (2009), S. tridentata successfully revegetated cliff edges disturbed by recreational activities. Has been used in green roof landscaping study with 99% survival after one growing season (Wolf and Lundholm 2008).

Commercial Resources
Availability: Is available commercially in Alberta (ANPC 2010).
Cultivars: None.

Notes
Synonym Potentilla tridentata (Budd and Best 1969, Schultz et al. 2002).
Sibbaldiopsis tridentata is listed as 96% intact (less occurrences than expected) in the Alberta oil sands region (Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute 2014).

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Photos 1 and 2: Walter Muma @ Ontariowildflowers.com
Photo 3: Wild Rose Consulting, Inc.

References
Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, 2014. The status of biodiversity in the oil sands region of


