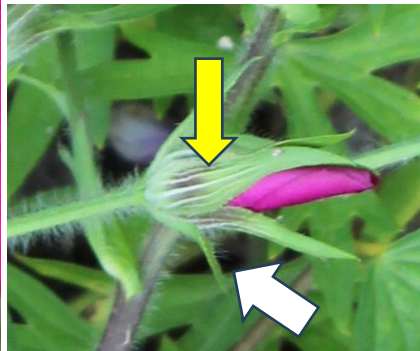




The flowers appear to be [solitary](#), but are really held in loose, open [racemose inflorescences](#). Each flower has 5 magenta [petals](#) that are white at the base. Below the ring of petals is a ring of 5 [sepals](#) with very raised veins (yellow arrows). Below the sepals are 3 narrow [bracts](#) (white arrow). The gender parts in the center of the flower are typical of the mallow family; the [stamens](#) are fused into a central column with the rose-pink [styles](#) rising out of the center of the column (green arrow). The flower stalk ([peduncle](#)) is densely hairy.

The fruit is a [schizocarp](#) of 14 to 20 sections attached to a central core. It resembles a wheel of cheese. The fruit sits in the persistent [calyx](#). Each section contains a dark seed.



The [alternate](#) leaves are [simple](#), but deeply dissected and palmately lobed. There is some variation in the lobing of the leaves. At the base of the leafstalk there is an [auriculate stipule](#) (yellow arrow).



Purple prairie mallow (also known as wine cups) has a sprawling form and can act as a ground cover.

