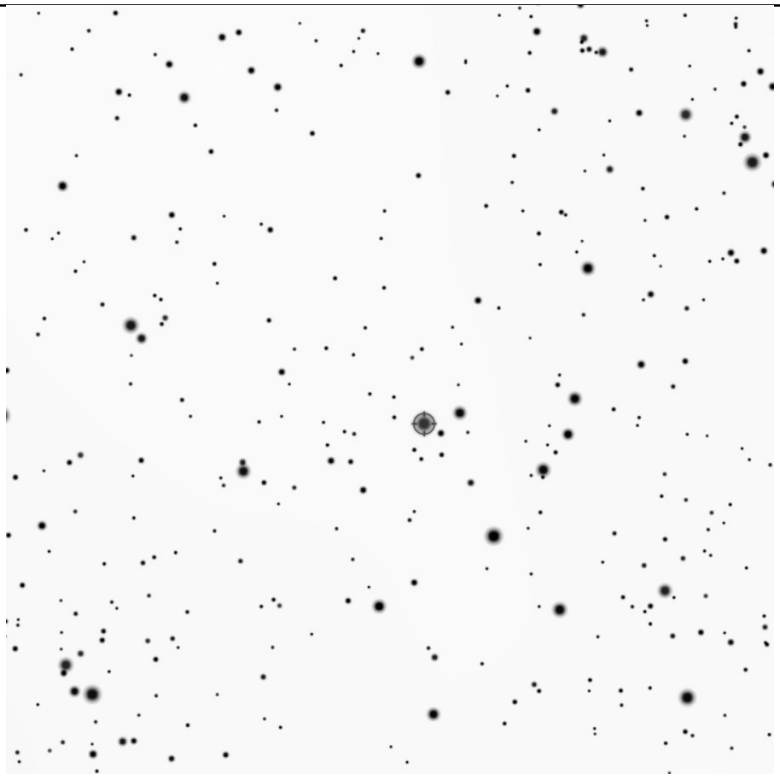
UY Scuti



Quick Facts:

Distance: 9500 light-years. Constellation: Scutum.

One of the largest known stars, a red supergiant big enough to swallow Jupiter's orbit. At 7 to 10 solar masses, it's massive enough to have a core collapse and explode as a supernova in the next million years or so. Like many red supergiants, it's an irregular variable, pulsating over an approximate period of 2 years. Find it: Sweep just over 10 degrees due north of Kaus Borealis (Teapot lid top star) to find a small asterism of five stars. Go west 3 degrees over the border to Serpens to find the Eagle Nebula. Sweep 3 degrees NE. The 1/2-deg. finder chart is centered here and has N up. GOTO: Use the GOTO RA-DEC function in UTILITIES with the coordinates 18h27.6m, -12°28'.

Image: Stellarium. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.