

ironweed *Vernonia* sp.

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Ironweed is a perennial herb. Its stems are upright, hairy and may be branched or unbranched. The simple, thin leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each hairy, lance-shaped leaf is shallowly toothed. A single leaf may be six inches long and two inches wide. Purple flowers are borne in flat-topped clusters. Each flower has five petals, that are united at the base into a tube. The dry, hard, elongated fruits are each about one-sixth inch long. Ironweed may grow from two to six feet tall.

BEHAVIORS

Ironweed may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in moist prairies, open woods, low ground and roadsides. Flowers are produced from July through September.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; marshes; peatlands; swamps; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge; hill prairie

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