

ox-eye sunflower

Heliopsis helianthoides

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Asterales
Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

Ox-eye sunflower is also known as ox-eye. This perennial plant has short, arrowhead-shaped, toothed leaves arranged in pairs on the smooth stem. Some of these plants have smooth leaves while others have rough leaves. A leaf may be as much as six inches long and two and one-half inches wide. A single flower head is produced at the stem tip. Both yellow ray flowers and disk flowers are present in the flower head. Each flower head may be one and one-fourth to two and one-half inches in diameter. The one-seeded fruit is dry and hard. Ox-eye sunflower may attain a height of two to five feet.

BEHAVIORS

Ox-eye sunflower may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in open woods, thickets and moist and dry prairies. Flowers are produced from July through August. Ox-eye sunflower is an important food plant for grazing animals of the prairie.

ILLINOIS RANGE



plant with flowers



leaves and stems



flowers

Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge