

purple sneezeweed *Helenium flexuosum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Purple sneezeweed is a perennial herb. Its leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each simple, entire leaf is linear to oblong. Flowers are clustered at the stem tip. The sterile, yellow, ray flowers are on the outside while the fertile, purple-brown, disk flowers on the inside make up the button. The one-seeded fruit is dry and hard. Purple sneezeweed may attain a height of one to three feet.

BEHAVIORS

Purple sneezeweed may be found statewide, although it is more commonly seen in the southern one-half of the state. It grows in prairies, wetlands and old fields. Flowers are produced from June through September.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

marshes; swamps

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie

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