

yellow sneezeweed *Helenium autumnale*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Yellow sneezeweed is also known as autumn sneezeweed. This perennial herb grows from a thickened root. Its stem is upright, branched or unbranched and winged. The leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each simple, lance-shaped, smooth leaf may be up to six inches long and one and one-half inches wide. Many flowers are crowded into heads at the stem tip with several heads per plant. Each flower head may be two and one-half inches wide. The outer flowers are yellow and raylike, while the inner flowers are tubular and yellow-brown. Flower rays are directed downward. Each ray has three scallops at the tip. The hairy, dry, hard fruits are elongated with a few pointed scales at the tip. Tubular and, usually, ray flowers are fertile. Yellow sneezeweed may attain a height of two to four feet.

BEHAVIORS

Yellow sneezeweed may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in wet prairies and other wet ground, along roads, in thickets and in swamps. Flowers are produced from August through October.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; swamps; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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