

# ironweed

## *Vernonia sp.*

### 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.

### TAXONOMY

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE







### **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