

# ox-eye sunflower

## *Heliopsis helianthoides*

### 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.

### TAXONOMY

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE





leaves and stems



flowers



plant with flowers

### **Aquatic Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; edge