

sawtooth sunflower *Helianthus grosseserratus*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Sawtooth sunflower is also known as thick-tooth sunflower. This perennial herb has its upper leaves in an alternate arrangement, while the lower leaves are opposite each other on the stem. These lance-shaped, stalked leaves are strongly toothed. Leaves are downy on the lower surface. Each leaf is typically four to eight inches long and about one inch wide. The stem is smooth and may have a white bloom. Both ray (sterile) and disk (fertile) flowers are present. Ten to 20 yellow rays surround the central, yellow disk flowers. Each flower head may be one to three inches wide. The one-seeded fruit is dry and hard. Sawtooth sunflower is the tallest Illinois sunflower. It commonly grows to about eight feet tall, but some plants attain a height of 15 feet.

BEHAVIORS

Sawtooth sunflower may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in prairies, edges of woods and fence rows. Flowers are produced from July through October.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge

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