

# Oxeye Sunflower: *Heliopsis helianthoides*



**Cultivation:** The preference is full or partial sun, and moist to slightly dry loamy soil, although rocky ground and clay are tolerated. This plant is easy to grow, and tolerates more shade than most prairie wildflowers. It is quick to develop, but is not thought to be particularly long-lived. Habitats include mesic black soil prairies, open woodlands and woodland borders, thickets, limestone glades, and areas along railroads. It is often grown in flower gardens, and sometimes escapes to neighboring waste areas. This plant is usually found not far from woodland areas, rather than in the open prairie.

**Plant Structure:** This native perennial plant is 3-5' tall, branching occasionally and becoming rather bushy in open situations. The opposite leaves are up to 5" long and 3½" across, ovate to broadly ovate in shape, and coarsely serrated along the margins. They are usually dark green and have a rough texture. The blooming period occurs from early to late summer and lasts about 2½ months. There is no noticeable scent to the flowers. The root system is fibrous.

