



False Sunflower

Heliopsis helianthoides

Plant Description – Native, herb/wildflower, deciduous, perennial

Height: 3-6 ft **Width/Spread:** 2-4 ft



Leaves

Shape: Lanceolate

Arrangement: Opposite

Margin: Serrate

Form: Simple

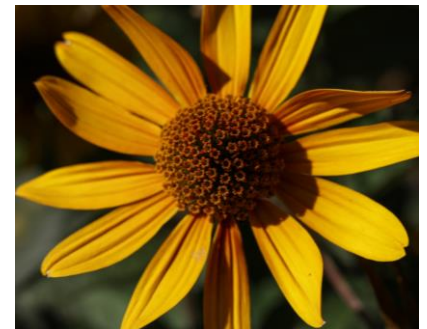
Leaf Description: Light to dark green; pointed; up to 4.5 inches long and 3 inches wide; sandpaper-like surface; hairy stem

Flower/Bloom

Flower Color: Yellow/Gold/Copper/Orange

Flower Shape: Radiate/ ligulate **In Bloom:** May-Oct

Flower Description: Resembles daisy; yellow flower heads are 2-3 inches wide and are made of 7-20 yellow-orange ray florets (narrow, petal-like, infertile florets that surround the disk) and yellow disc florets (tubular, fertile florets that forms disk) that form a spiny central cone; unlike true sunflowers, rays of the false sunflower persist on the flower heads while the rays of true sunflowers wither and fall away



Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Seeds

Seed Type: Fruit – Dry seed pod

Months in Seed: Aug-Nov

Fruit and Seed Description: Fruit is often incorrectly referred to as an achene, but it is a cypsela; seed is small and dark, less than 1cm long

Ecological Benefits

Nectar source for hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators; seed source for birds

Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; stems may be cut back by 1/3 to 1/2 in late May to reduce overall plant height; leave standing dead flowers into the winter as natural bird feeders plant is likely to self-seed; prefers average amount of water (*water two times per week in summer, once per week otherwise*)