

## Wild sunflower

### *Helianthus annuus*

#### Description

This plant releases chemicals that kill off surrounding vegetation.

#### Habit

Widely branching, stout annual growing up to 8 ft. tall, with coarsely hairy leaves and stems.

#### Leaves

Alternate, large, 8 in. long, 6 in. wide, droop downwards from long petioles; cordate, ovate-cordate or ovate with fine dentate margins; upper surface is dull green and covered with short stiff hairs. Petioles are light green to reddish green, covered with short stiff hairs and upper surface is channeled.

#### Stems

Central stem is light green to reddish green, terete and covered with stiff spreading hairs.

#### Flowers

Daisy-like, 1/8 in. across, central disk florets that





are yellow to brown in color, 20-40 ray florets that are yellow in color. Floral bracts are dull green, stiffly hairy and ovate in shape.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Disk florets are replaced by a large seed that is ovoid and somewhat flattened.

### **Habitat**

Native to North America. Can be found in disturbed sites, abandoned fields, pastures, roadsides, along railroads, and waste areas.

### **Reproduction**

By seed and has a tendency to form colonies.

### **Similar**

### **Credits**

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from [Illinoiswildflowers.info](http://Illinoiswildflowers.info). Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).