

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.

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Monitoring and Rapid Response

Credits

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