

Silphium perfoliatum L.

Cup plant

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

USDA Symbol: SIPE2

USDA Native Status: Native to U.S.



A coarse perennial, 3-6 ft. tall with numerous large, yellow composite flowers. Each flower head has 20-30 yellow rays and darker yellow disks. Stout leaves are joined at stem to form a small cup that holds water and attracts birds.

The small cup formed by the leaves holds water and attracts birds.

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Herb

Size Notes: Can grow to as much as 9 ft.

Fruit:

Size Class: 3-6 ft.

BLOOM INFORMATION

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Jul , Aug , Sep

DISTRIBUTION

USA: AL , AR , CT , GA , IA , IL , IN , KS , KY , LA , MA , MD , ME , MI , MN , MO , MS , NC , ND , NE , NJ , NY , OH , OK , PA , SD , TN , VA , VT , WI , WV

Canada: ON

Native Distribution: S. Ont. to NC, w. to e. Great Plains

Native Habitat: Moist woods; prairies; low ground

USDA Native Status: L48(N), CAN(N)

GROWING CONDITIONS

Light Requirement: Sun

Soil Moisture: Dry , Moist , Wet

Drought Tolerance: High

Soil Description: Wet to mesic soils. Will tolerate clay soil.

Conditions Comments: Unstoppable urge to reproduce, they will pop up everywhere; very little care needed.

BENEFIT

Use Wildlife: Attracts birds for seed.

Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Attracts: Butterflies , Hummingbirds

Nectar Source: yes

VALUE TO BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Special Value to Native Bees

Special Value to Bumble Bees

Special Value to Honey Bees

Provides Nesting Materials/Structure for Native Bees

Supports Conservation Biological Control

This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at [The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](http://www.xerces.org/).

PROPAGATION

Description: Most easily propagated by seed. Sow unstratified seed in spring or stratified in fall. Deep roots make it difficult to transplant but young offshoots from parent plant can be removed and planted.

Seed Collection: Seeds can be allowed to dry out before sowing. Collect in Sep. and Oct.

Seed Treatment: This species requires or benefits from a three month period of cold moist stratification in the refrigerator.

Commercially Avail: yes

SOURCE: http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SIPE2