

Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)

Aster Family

Other Common Names: cup rosinweed

Scientific Name: *Silphium perfoliatum* L.

Plant Symbol: SIPE2

Distinguishing characteristics: Floral heads in loose, open inflorescences; rays yellow and the central disc yellow; leaves opposite on the stem and, except the basal leaves, characteristically have the leaf bases fused together with its opposite leaf making a “cup” around the stem and appearing as if the square stem is growing through the middle of the leaf, the leaves are thickened but not leathery.

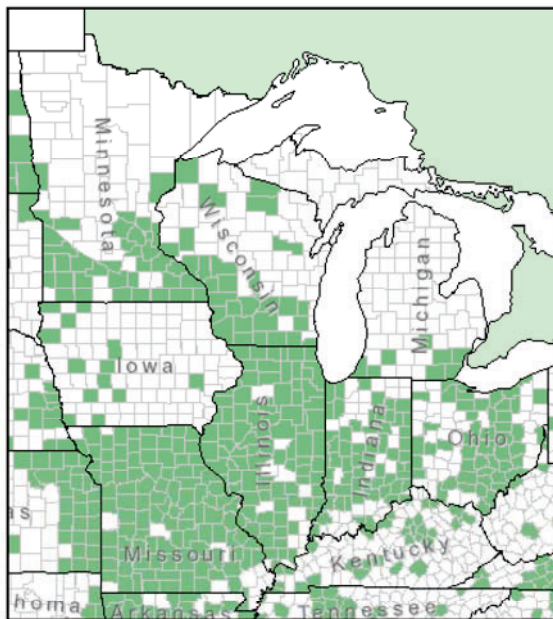
Plant Height: 3-7+ ft., erect (commonly in clusters)

Blooms/Fruits: July–September

Duration: Perennial, herbaceous (from rhizomes)

Pollinator Value: This flower provides nectar and pollen to bees and other beneficial insects. It also attracts butterflies.

Habitat: Bottomland forests, banks of rivers and streams, moist low ground, and ditches.





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Full flowering/close-up of flowers and mature



Photo: John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers



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Leaf arrangement



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Close-up of stem