

Upland Ironweed – *Vernonia glauca*



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Habitat Notes:

Dry-mesic to dry upland forests, woodlands, and clearings; occasionally in alluvial habitats.

Species Identification:

- Purple flowers
- Height 2.5-6.5 feet
- Stem glaucous, glabrous, sometimes puberulent above.
- Leaves 8.5-20cm long, 1.5-8cm wide; abruptly narrowed to the base, sharply or saliently serrate.
- Leaf blades 2.5-3.5x as long as wide.
- Pappus whitish to yellowish, 30 outer bristles intergrading with 30+ inner bristles.

Cultural Conditions:

- Full sun to part sun (2-6 hours a day)
- Clay, loam, sandy soil
- Good drainage, moist, occasionally dry

Ecological Benefits:

- Wildlife: Reliable plant for attracting butterflies and other pollinators as it produces significant amounts of nectar.
- Valuable winter food source for birds.

Growing Protocol:

- Seed stratification: C(60)
 - 60 day cold moist stratification. Keep at temperature range of 33-38 degrees for duration of stratification.
 - Add water to stratification media periodically to ensure seeds do not dry out.

Collection Information:

- Fluffy seeds. Tugging the pappus can aid in knowing when to harvest. If the stem is still green and the seeds refuse to release with the pappus, its too early.
- Collect when stem is dark and pappus full and easy to pull.
- Shaking stem in bag can be an efficient way to collect many seeds.

Pests & Disease:

- No serious pests or disease problems.