

HELIANTHUS MOLLIS Lam.
Ashy Sunflower

FAMILY: Asteraceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 0.5-1.0 m.; flowering August, September; fruiting September, October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The cinereous pubescence and sessile, clasping leaves are unique among Ohio's sunflowers. Hybrids between this species and other sunflowers have been reported from other states.

TOTAL RANGE: OH to WI, s. IA, and e. KS, s. to GA and TX, and occasionally intr. e. to the Atlantic.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Clark, Erie, Jackson, Miami, Monroe, and Wyandot counties. Pre-1980 records from 8 counties: Adams, Ashtabula, Butler, Franklin, Lake, Meigs, Ross, and Scioto.

HABITAT: A variety of well-drained, sunny openings: dry prairies, railroad embankments, roadsides, woods borders, and clearings; usually in neutral substrates.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species; digging by wildflower gardeners.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: This species transplants readily and grows well in cultivation. However, its disappearance from large parts of its former range indicates that it is sensitive to disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Flowering material is needed for accurate identification. Collect only the aboveground portion of the plant; leave the root system in the ground.

COMMENTS: The general range of this species in Ohio is probably accurately known, as the species is distinctive and easily recognized. With its proven recovery potential, this species could be used in prairie restoration projects.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States. Vol. I. Asteraceae. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. xv + 261 p.

Heiser, C.B., Jr. 1969. The North American sunflowers (*Helianthus*). Mem. Torr. Bot. Club 22: 1-218.



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