



## ***Heliopsis helianthoides* – Ox-eye Sunflower**

COMMON NAME: Ox-eye Sunflower, False Sunflower

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Heliopsis helianthoides* – From the Greek *helios* for sun and *opsis* for appearance, because it looks like a sunflower. *Helianthus* is Greek for “sunflower.”

FLOWER COLOR: Golden yellow

BLOOMING PERIOD: July through September

SIZE: Tall plant, up to 5 or 6 feet.

BEHAVIOR: Spreads easily by seeds. A tall sunflower-like plant. Does not spread by rhizomes.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Dry woods, dry to wet prairies, disturbed ground. Tolerates a wide range of soil, light, and moisture conditions. It is usually not far from woodland areas, rather than in open prairie.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The stems are erect with dark green leaves up to 5 inches long and with a rough texture. The composite flowers are 2-3 inches across occurring individually at the ends of the stems. The flowers are attractive to butterflies and other insects. Birds eat the seeds. This plant is attractive because of its long blooming period and ease of cultivation.

SUGGESTED CARE: Little or no care is needed once established.

NATURAL RANGE: New York and Southern Ontario west to Minnesota, south to North Carolina. It is found in most of Wisconsin.

COMPANION PLANTS: In prairie remnants it is found with yarrow, prairie thistle, sawtooth sunflower, Turk’s cap lily, wild bergamot, yellow coneflower, rosin weed, spiderwort, Culver’s root and American vetch. In thickets it might be with spreading dogbane, cow parsnip, small-flowered brown-eyed Susan, cup plant and common goldenrod.