



***Helianthus divaricatus* – Woodland Sunflower**

COMMON NAME: Woodland Sunflower

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Helianthus divaricatus* – the name comes from *heli* (Greek) meaning sun and *anthus* for flower. *Divaricatus* is Latin for “spread apart” referring to the leaves.

FLOWER: Bright yellow, about 1 ½ to 3 inches in diameter

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to September

SIZE: 2 – 6 feet

BEHAVIOR: Spreads over time by creeping rhizomes to form colonies.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Partial shade or full sun in average to moist soil with good drainage. Woodland sunflowers are found in dry woods and open places.

NATURAL RANGE: All of eastern United States and some of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Stalks terminate with one or more flowers on stiff stems. The center of the flower has a 1/2-inch wide disk. Leaves are in pairs, each pair offset 90 degrees from the next pair. The leaves are very stiff and closely attached to the plant stem. Cut flowers last well in bouquets. Birds and small mammals eat the seeds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Divide every 3-4 years to control invasiveness and maintain vigor.

COMPANION PLANTS: wild columbine, Pennsylvania sedge, wild strawberry, Solomon’s Seal, Short’s aster, wild geranium, bottle brush grass.