



Vernonia noveboracensis

New York ironweed

Family Asteraceae

Origin Native

WIS Code FAC CoC 3

DESCRIPTION

The common name has been attributed to its iron-like characteristics including the tough stems and rusty color of fading flowers and seeds. This erect perennial (to 2 m tall) has stems that are smooth or coarsely hairy and unbranched below the flower heads. The leaves are alternate, rough, lance-shaped with toothed margins (7 to 25 cm long).



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

July through September. Flower heads, growing on stalks arising from the upper leaf axils (where leaf meets stem), have numerous tiny, fluffy, deep purple flowers. The flowers are in clusters wrapped at the base by rust colored bracts with long filament-like tips. Fruits are seed (achene) clusters with puff-ball appearance when mature.



Vernonia noveboracensis

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HABITAT

Floodplain forests, stream banks, marshes, and wet meadows.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Vernonia gigantea, giant ironweed, is a bit taller (to 3 m) than *V. noveboracensis*, and it lacks the filament-like tips on the flower head bracts.



Vernonia gigantea

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