

# Verbesina alternifolia



## wingstem

Family	Asteraceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	FAC	CoC	2

### DESCRIPTION

Wings along the central stem (rarely unwinged) of this erect perennial (1 to 2 m tall) gives it its common name, and the stem branches only near the top where flower heads are formed. The olive green leaves (10 to 30 cm long) are alternate, lance-shaped, rough textured with smooth to slightly toothed margins and white hairs on the under surface of major veins. Spreading via rhizomes (underground stems), this species forms vegetative colonies.



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### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

August through September. The upper stem holds the daisy-like flower heads (2.5 to 5 cm wide) with yellow rays (petal-like structures). The globe-like fruits contain many oval-shaped capsules with two short slender awns (beaks) at the tip.



*Verbesina alternifolia*, flowers

Sherrie Snyder

### HABITAT

Moist woods, stream banks, and low floodplains.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

*Helenium autumnale*, common sneezeweed, also has yellow flowers and winged stems, but tips of the ray flowers (petals) are lobed or toothed (*V. alternifolia* ray flowers are not lobed).



*Helenium autumnale*, flowers

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