

Senecio aureus

North American Native



Senecio
(se-ne-kee-o)
From the Latin *senex*, an old man, referring to the fluffy, white seed heads.

aureus (aw-re-us)
meaning golden.
Syn. *Packera aurea*



Zones: 4 – 9 **Flower Color:** Golden Yellow **Height:** 12 – 16”
Spacing: 10”

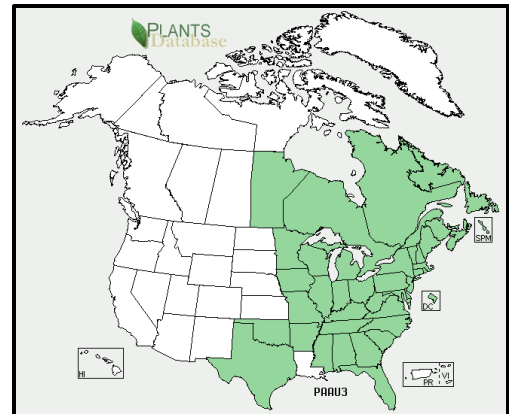
About the Species:

Common Name: Golden Ragwort, Golden Groundsel

Family: Asteraceae

At the base of each plant is a small rosette of heart shaped basal leaves about 6-8” wide, dark green above and purplish below. A flowering stalk develops from the center of each rosette with a few leaves along each stalk. The stalk terminates in a flat-headed panicle of flower heads. Each daisy-like flower head consists of golden yellow disk florets, surrounded by yellow ray florets. Both fertile, they will bloom in early summer from purple buds. The seed heads are bullet-shaped with a small tuft of white hairs. The short rootstock has spreading fibrous roots and produces rhizomes. *Senecio aureus* prefers consistently moist, well drained soil in full sun to part shade and will need more moisture in sunnier locations.

Other Uses: The Cherokee used this plant as a gynecological aid and as a heart medicine. The Iroquois used this plant for blood medicine, diaphoretic, fevers, kidney problems and as a decoction for broken bones. Due to its saturated pyrrolizidine alkaloids which can cause liver disease, *Senecio* is not used as much today as in the past. There is a PA-free extract available and this homeopathic remedy is available today. As always, contact a health professional before self-medicating.



USDA Plants Database

Habitat: Commonly found in moist meadows and grassy edges of swamps, seeps and edges of springs, banks of rivers and lakes, slopes of rocky ravines, glades, roadside embankments, and abandoned fields.

In the Garden: Use in a native garden, for cut flowers, xeriscaping, wild gardens, as a filler in shady wooded areas, borders, and moist sunny areas. The Cinnabar Moth feeds mostly on ragwort and has been introduced as a control measure in places where it has become a problem weed. Dead head to prevent self-sowing.