

Wingstem **Botanical Name:** *Verbesina alternifolia*



Photo by & grown by: John Brandauer

Description: A tall one, and a good fall nectar source and host for the Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*). zone 4 - 9

Common Names: Wingstem, Yellow Ironweed

Family: Asteraceae (Aster family)

Growth Rate: Fast

Soil Preference: Likes moisture and fertile soil

Light Requirements: Full Sun to light shade

Pests and diseases: Will drop leaves in drought

Care: Easy. Can be cut back in July, to reduce height.

Blooms: 1 to 2" yellow, late summer to early fall

Size: 3 to 13 feet tall, dependant on soil and moisture.

Native habitat: Native to all of the eastern U. S. except northern New England and in the southwest as far west as Kansas, threatened in New York state.

Resistant to deer. Nectar attractive to butterflys (especially migrating Monarchs) and bees. Seeds are food for a number of birds, and small mammals. Also a host for Azures. Tolerates both clay soil and dry sandy soil for me, (in two locations).

Notes : **Aggressive grower, spreads by seed and rhizome, can form dense colonies (in moist areas).**

Information compiled from the web, supplimented by our experiences.

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