

## New York Ironweed (*Vernonia novaborocensis*)

3-7' x 3-4' robust, upright, substantial clumps.

CT native, found in moist thickets, low areas, marshes, along streambanks, fields.

Loose clusters of 1/2" fluffy deep reddish-purple flowers, August-September, on short branching stems. Flower heads on mature plants can be 2' across, with hundreds of flowers, atop sturdy stems.

4-8" deep green lance-shaped leaves, rough textured, serrate along margins, densely alternating up stems. Stout stems often persist throughout winter.

Rust-color seed clusters.  
Remove flowers before seed develops if you want to avoid any self-seeding.

Full sun to light shade.  
Medium to wet, prefers rich moist soil.  
Takes some drought once established.  
Can reduce height by cutting stems back nearly to the ground in late spring.  
Deep-rooted, so difficult to divide or move.  
Easily grown. May naturalize.

Backs of large borders, cottage gardens, meadows, screening.  
Streamside buffers.

Special Value to Native Bees, including Bumblebees, Cuckoo Bees, Miner Bees.

One of the best attractors of late summer butterflies. Brings Swallowtails, Whites, Sulfurs, Monarchs, Painted Ladies, and more. Larval host for Pathenice Tiger Moths, Red Groundling Moths.

Seeds attract birds, including Chickadees. Provides cover for beneficial insects if stems are left over winter.

Mammals avoid the bitter taste of Ironweed.

Photos 1, 2, 5, 6: N. Central Conservation District  
Photo 3: Dendroica cerulea

[flickr.com/photos/dendroica/9636962857/sizes/l](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dendroica/9636962857/sizes/l)

Photo 4: Mount Cuba Center

[mtcubacenter.org/plants/new-york-ironweed/](https://www.mtcubacenter.org/plants/new-york-ironweed/)

Photos 7, 15: rockerBOO

[flickr.com/photos/rockerboo/9373661662/sizes/l](https://www.flickr.com/photos/rockerboo/9373661662/sizes/l)

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Photo 8: Tom Potterfield

[flickr.com/photos/tgpotterfield/14941784071/sizes/l](https://www.flickr.com/photos/tgpotterfield/14941784071/sizes/l)

Photo 9: BlueRidgeKitties; [flickr.com/photos/blueridgekitties/38869626764/sizes/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/blueridgekitties/38869626764/sizes/)

Photo 10: FritzFlohReynolds; [flickr.com/photos/fritzflohreynolds/9484038284/sizes/l](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fritzflohreynolds/9484038284/sizes/l)

Photo 11: John Brandauer

[flickr.com/photos/brandauer/5398756286/sizes/l](https://www.flickr.com/photos/brandauer/5398756286/sizes/l)

Photos 12, 16: David Smith, Delaware Wildflowers

[delawarewildflowers.org/plant.php?id=2097](https://delawarewildflowers.org/plant.php?id=2097)

Photo 13: BudOhio

[flickr.com/photos/budohio/20272985178/sizes/l](https://www.flickr.com/photos/budohio/20272985178/sizes/l)

Photo 14: Missouri Botanical Garden

[mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder](https://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder)

Photo 17: Martha B. Moss, Penn State Extension

Master Gardener; [news.psu.edu/gallery/406298/2016/04/24/impact/create-your-own-pollinator-friendly-garden-photos-tips-and](https://news.psu.edu/gallery/406298/2016/04/24/impact/create-your-own-pollinator-friendly-garden-photos-tips-and)

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