

Common name: **New York Ironweed** Genus Species: **Vernonia noveboracensis**



Photo credit: Shannon Smiley

**Description:** New York ironweed is a tall, clump-forming perennial growing 5-8 ft. in height. Slightly rough stems bear lance-shaped, deep-green leaves. Tall erect branches each bear a cluster of deep lavender to violet flower heads, which occur in large flat-topped sprays.

**Habitats:** New York ironweed is common in wet open bottomland fields, and is also found in moist meadows, pastures, and roadsides.

**Phenology highlight:** Bright purple flowers are conspicuous in late summer and early autumn.

### Species facts

- The major pollinators of New York ironweed are butterflies and bees.
- The flowers are a nectar source for the Diana fritillary butterfly (*photo*) and other butterfly species.
- Teas made from the leaves of New York ironweed were used to relieve childbirth pain and as a blood tonic. Teas made from the roots were used to treat stomach ulcers and hemorrhages.

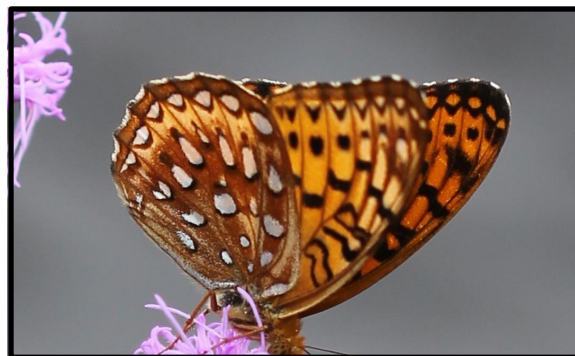
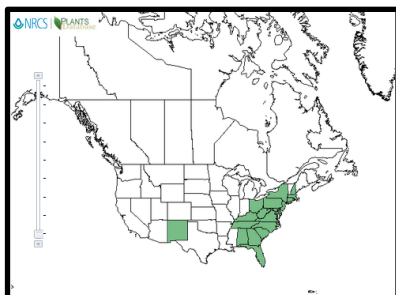


Photo credit: Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



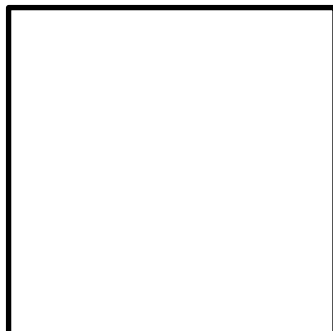
**Why observe this species?** New York ironweed is one of the plant species observed by New York Phenology Project member organizations, and data gathered is contributed to the National Phenology Network database. The mission of this public participation in science research initiative is to educate and engage the public while collecting data that is useful for detecting broad scale patterns and changes in the natural world.

Map credit: USDA, NRCS. 2014. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 27 August 2014). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA

For more information about phenology and the New York Phenology Project (NYPP), please visit the NYPP website ([www.nyphenology.org](http://www.nyphenology.org)) and the USA-NPN website ([www.usanpn.org](http://www.usanpn.org))

# New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)

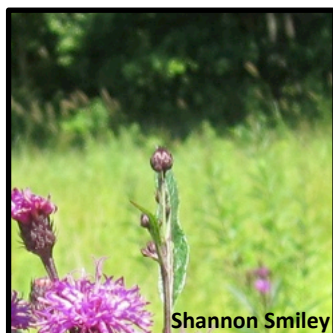
**Note:** flower and fruit phenophases are nested so you may need to record more than one phenophase for each; for example, if you record Y for "open flowers" you should also record Y for "flowers or flower buds."



**Initial growth** New growth is visible after a period of no growth (winter or drought), from above-ground buds with green tips, or new shoots breaking through the soil. Growth is "initial" on each bud or shoot until the first leaf unfolds.



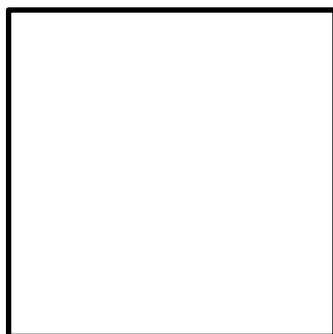
**Leaves** One or more live fully unfolded leaves are visible. For seedlings, consider only true leaves and do not count the two small leaves (cotyledons) that are found on the stem shortly after the seedling germinates. Do not count dead leaves.



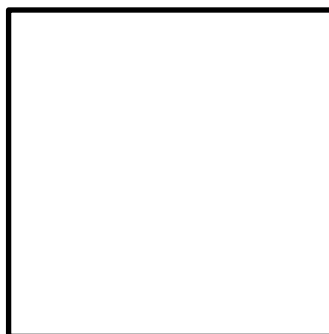
**Flowers or flower buds** One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible on the plant. Include flower buds that are still developing, but do not include wilted or dried flowers.



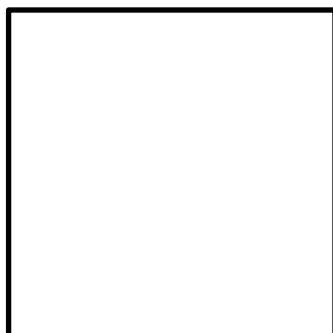
**Open flowers** One or more open fresh flowers are visible. Flowers are open when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible between open flower. Do not include wilted or dried flowers.



**Fruits** One or more fruits are visible. New York ironweed fruit is very tiny and seed-like and is crowded into a spent flower head. Each fruit has a tuft of tan to purplish fluff, and when unripe is whitish-green or yellow-green.



**Ripe fruits** One or more ripe fruits are visible. New York ironweed fruit is ripe when it has turned tan, light brown or yellow-brown, or when it readily drops or is blown from the spent flower head. Do not count empty flower heads.



**Recent fruit or seed drop** One or more ripe seeds have dropped or been removed since your last visit. Do not include immature fruits that dropped before ripening or empty fruits that remain on the plant.



**Ironweeds and black walnuts** Ironweeds will grow under black walnuts because, unlike many other plants, they are resistant to juglone, a chemical found in black walnut trees. Juglone in the soil inhibits the growth of most other plants.

All phenophases pictured here