

Ironweed

Flowering plant. Ironweed is an erect-growing plant with a columnar appearance.



Foliage. Key characteristics:
leaves are alternate and the length usually exceeds the width. Most species in Missouri have some hair present on the lower surfaces of their leaves.



Flowers. Key characteristics: color is usually rose-purple, although some white variations exist.



Seed. *Vernonia altissima* (left); *Vernonia baldwinii* (right). Both species have elongated seeds that are approximately 3.0 mm in length, excluding the pappus. Shape is elongated with a distinctly ridged surface.

Life cycle: perennial.