

Helianthus grosseserratus

SAWTOOTH SUNFLOWER (Composite Family)

in the **Peacock Prairie** at the **James Woodworth Prairie Preserve**



This native perennial plant is 3-12' tall. (91-366 cm) Plants in dense colonies are only 3-5' tall, but lone wolf plants can achieve considerable height. The stout central stem is hairless and often reddish in color. There is very little branching, except for a few small flowering stems in the upper half of the plant. The leaves are up to 8" long and 2½" across, lanceolate or narrowly ovate, and slightly to strongly serrate. They have a sandpapery texture, with minute stiff hairs across their surface. The leaves often curl upward from their central veins, particularly during hot dry weather. They are usually opposite below, but become alternate in the upper half of the plant. They taper gradually into slender petioles that are about ½" in length. The yellow composite flowers are about 3-4" across. They consist of 10-25 ray florets, surrounding numerous disk florets. There are often many flowers in bloom simultaneously on large plants.

Text from

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/swt_sunflowerx.htm

Photos by Frank Mayfield
at **black sweater art, inc.**

