

Lactuca serriola
PRICKLY LETTUCE (Aster Family)

in the **Peacock Prairie** at the **James Woodworth Prairie Preserve**
THIS NON-NATIVE SPECIES IS AN EXOTIC, ALIEN, INVASIVE UNDESIRABLE



This adventive annual or biennial plant is 2-7' (61-213 cm) tall and unbranched, except where the upper flowering stems occur. ... The alternate leaves are up to 12" long and 4" across, becoming smaller as they ascend the stems. They are blue-green, glabrous, and pinnately lobed with a few teeth. The lobes have a tendency to curve backwards toward the central stem and their tips are pointed. Each leaf has short prickles along its margin and the underside of the central vein. The base of each leaf has a pair of angular lobes that clasp the stem. ... Panicles of pale yellow flowerheads are produced from the central stem and upper side stems. These panicles are rather long and spreading; they have alternate leaves that are widely spaced and greatly reduced in size. Each flowerhead is about 1/3" across and about 1/2" in length. It consists of about 20 pale yellow ray florets and several blue-green bracts underneath. The ray florets have truncated tips with 5 small teeth, while the overlapping floral bracts are slender and hairless. ... Blooms at the Peacock/Woodworth Prairie from about the 3rd week in July to the 3rd week in September.

Text adapted from http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/prickly_lettuce.htm Photos by Frank Mayfield at **black sweater art, inc.**