

## Frostweed *Verbesina virginica*

**Other Common Names:** Iceplant, Iceweed, Richweed



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### FROSTWEED

*Verbesina virginica*



**Native Perennial**



**Pollinators, Monarchs, Bees**



**Dappled Shade / Part Shade**

**Water:** Low to medium

3-6' Tall x 2' Wide

**Color:** White flower clusters

**Bloom:** Summer to fall

Nectar source in prairie gardens

Crystallofolia -- Ice ribbon curls form on stems in 1st freeze

Super Spreader fall self-seeder forming dense root mats

**Grown by a Denton County Master Gardener**

### General Information

Frostweed will grow in full sun, partial shade, or full shade and it requires a small amount of water to be happy. Like most wildflowers, it needs very little care. Riverbanks, open woodlands, and shaded woods are its natural habitat, however, and copying these conditions will produce the happiest plants.

The large clusters of white flower blooms appear in August and September and are usually covered with bees and butterflies. The foliage is a larval host for the Summer Azure, Bordered Patch, and Silvery Checkerspot butterflies.

### Characteristics

**Hardiness Zones:** 1-8

**Heat Tolerance:** High

**Size:** 3-6 feet tall by 3-6 feet wide

**Flowers:** 3-to-6-inch white compound flowers

**Bloom time:** August thru first freeze

**Leaves:** Large green leaves with wing like flanges the length of stem

### Pests and Disease Problems

None

### Plant Care

Trim back by at least one third in June to encourage a fuller plant and more autumn blooms. It is deciduous, but the largish, dark green leaves grow up an interesting stem that has fleshy wing-like flanges running the length of the stem. These are crucial to frostweed's special winter feature (Crystallofolia). The stems grow straight up and remain unbranched until the flower heads appear in late summer. It is easy to propagate frostweed by digging and dividing the rhizomes in winter when the plant is dormant. You can also allow the seed heads to dry on the plant after the flowers have faded. Then remove them and collect the seeds.

### Warning

Can be very dominant where planted.

### Sources for Additional Information

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. [Frostweed](#)

National Gardening Association. [Frostweed](#)