

Frostweed - *Verbesina virginica*

Other Common Names: Iceplant, Iceweed, Richweed



Liz Moyer, CC BY NC SA, Denton County MGA

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, or partial/full shade and requires a small amount of water. Large clusters of white flowers 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. Very early in the morning of the first hard frost, stems split and curls of ice emerge, resembling ribbon candy.

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 1-8

Size: 3-6 ft w X 3-6 ft h

Flowers: 3-6 inch white compound flowers

Bloom time: August thru first freeze

Leaves: Large, with wing like flanges the length of stem

Growth Habit/Shape: Upright, herbaceous

Soil Requirements: Organically rich and lightly moist

Propagation: Root division, seed

Indoor/Outdoor: Outdoor

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.

Notes

Needs very little care. Riverbanks, open woodlands, and shaded woods are its natural habitat, however, and copying these conditions will produce the happiest plants. Can be very dominant where planted.

Sources for Additional Information

Native Plant Society of Texas

<https://www.npsot.org/posts/native-plant/verbesina-virginica/>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=VEVI3