

Ironweed

Veronia fasciculata

Look for Ironweed near the retention basins and in swales where rainwater collects.

Famous for its intense purple flowers and named for its tough stem, Ironweed has the excellent posture to make it a perfect high border garden plant. A favorite for adding late season color to the landscape, it's one of only a few red prairie flowers.

Early American herbalists used the root of the plant to create a restorative tonic that would alter disease by purifying the blood, increasing the appetite, improving digestion, and eliminating toxins. Other medicinal uses included treatment for fevers, female reproductive disturbances, various skin diseases, lymph node inflammation, and tumors.



In its role as a conservation plant, Ironweed is an irresistible attraction for hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies; the plant serves as the larval host for the American Painted Lady butterfly.

Fond of damp locations, Ironweed can tolerate heavy clay soil and full sun. It grows 4-6' tall on a grooved stem usually along the banks of marshes or small bodies of water. The leaves of the plant are sharply "toothed," (photo) and the small purple flowers in loose bunches make them favorite cut flower for bouquets.



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Ironweed blooms July through September.