

Starry rosinweed

(*Silphium asteriscus*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Starry rosinweed is a robust wildflower that occurs naturally in flatwoods, sandy pinelands and disturbed areas. Its bright, showy flowers attract a variety of butterflies, native bees and other pollinators. Birds will eat its seeds.

Flowerheads are large—up to 2½ inches in diameter. They are composed of many bright yellow ray florets surrounding a center of yellow to green disk florets. Flowerheads are born on branched stems and supported by an involucre of large bracts. Leaves are lanceolate with toothed margins and rough surfaces. Seeds are born in winged achenes.

The common name “rosinweed” refers to the gummy or resinous substance found in the stems. Native Americans chewed stems to clean their teeth. Rosinweeds have a long history of medicinal uses in North America and Europe.

Family: Asteraceae (aster, composite, or daisy family)

Native range: Panhandle and western central peninsula south to Lee County

To see where natural populations of Starry rosinweed have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Moderately dry to moist, well-drained soils

Exposure: Full sun to partial shade

Growth habit: 2–5' tall

Propagation: Seed

Florida regions of landscape suitability: North, Central

Garden tips: Starry rosinweed is especially loved because it blooms heavily over a long period of time. The plant will persist in the landscape, although it may die back in the winter, and can reseed on its own. Although its natural range is the west side of the peninsula, it performs well through much of the state.

Starry rosinweed is often available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit www.PlantRealFlorida.org to find a nursery in your area. Seeds may be available through the Florida Wildflower Growers Cooperative at www.FloridaWildflowers.com.



Photo by Stacey Matrazzo