

Vernonia noveboracensis

New York Ironweed

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Fluffy, red-violet blooms atop 8-foot tall stalks draw bees and butterflies from mid-summer into fall. This member of the daisy family is at home in wet meadows and freshwater marshes and along stream banks pretty much across the Mid-Atlantic Region.* The Virginia Native Plant Society named New York Ironweed Wildflower of the Year in 1995.



Perennial	Flowers En Masse, with Pollinator,** Fruit
Height: 3½–8 feet	
Spread: 3–4 feet	
Bloom Color: Red-violet to purple	
Characteristics	
Several erect stems arise from a single crown	
Alternate , lanceolate leaves grow on sturdy stems	
Brilliant, showy disk florets in loose corymbiform or paniculiform clusters from August to October	
Rust-color cypselae with tawny, bristled pappi	
Spreads by rhizomes and seed	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil and wet soil; no serious pests or diseases; deer rarely damage	
Stout stems often persist throughout the winter	
Ethnobotanic uses	
Attracts bees and butterflies to the flowers and birds to the seed heads; larval host to American Lady butterfly	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Slightly acidic loam	Buddleia davidii - Butterfly Bush
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	Lythrum salicaria - Purple Loosestrife
Water Requirements : Moist, Wet	
Plant height can be reduced by cutting back stems nearly to ground in late spring	
Remove spent flower heads to control self-seeding	*Despite its name, it is not abundant in NY. Rather, it is primarily concentrated in NY's Hudson Valley Region, New York City, and Long Island and absent in much the rest of the state. In PA, it is absent in the northern counties bordering NY. It is frequent to common throughout VA.
Use at the back of borders and in butterfly, meadow, and rain gardens	**A zabulon skipper feeds on the flower nectar.
Hardiness : USDA Zones 5–9	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Mary Free, Sunny Garden, from *Creating Inviting Habitats*, and private garden, Arlington, VA