

Butterweed

(*Packera glabella*)

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

Butterweed (*Packera glabella*, formerly *Senecio glabellus*) is an herbaceous annual that produces a conspicuous and striking mass of bright yellow blooms. Both disk and ray florets are yellow to golden. The bright green stem is hollow and glabrous. Leaves are dissected with rounded lobes. They are alternately arranged and get smaller as they move up the stem. Seeds are borne in brown achenes.



Photo by Mary Keim

Butterweed first appears in fall or winter as a basal rosette. Before it blooms, it is sometimes confused with mustard, as both have multi-lobed and rounded leaves. The composite flowers of Butterweed, however, clearly identify it as a member of the Aster family and not the mustard (Brassicaceae) family. And unlike mustard, Butterweed can be toxic if eaten.

Butterweed is one of the first wildflowers to bloom in early spring. It grows in dense stands that illuminate moist roadsides and river edges. It also occurs naturally in alluvial forests and wet, disturbed sites and attracts a variety of pollinators.

Family: Asteraceae (Aster, daisy or composite family)

Native range: Nearly throughout

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

Lifespan: Annual

Soil: Moist to inundated or seasonally flooded

Exposure: Partial shade to full sun

Growth habit: Up to 3'+ tall

Butterweed is not commercially available. Visit a natural area to see it.

SCAN FOR FULL
PLANT PROFILE:



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