

## Heliopsis helianthoides 'Incomparabilis'

Photos and article by: Sumathy Vannarth 9/3/2020



*Toothed central golden florets surrounded by larger ray flowers*



*Flower head has fuzzy outer bracts longer than inner ones*



*Ovate 3 veined dark green leaf, truncated base, pointed tip*



*Both ray and disk flowers are fertile.*

**Heliopsis helianthoides 'Incomparabilis'** is an undemanding plant addition to the perennial flower bed of the teaching garden at Will Rogers Park, Rogers County. The name of the plant is listed as 'Incomparabilis' in the Encyclopedia of Plant book. This is an outstanding flower beyond comparison.

The word Heliopsis came from Greek word Helios for 'Sun' and opsis for 'appearance'. The scientific name is Heliopsis and species is helianthoides. The word helianthoides is also a Greek word for "like Sunflower" The country of origin is central and eastern North America. Hardiness Zone mentioned is 4 to 9.

Alternate or common names mentioned are Oxeye Daisy, False Sunflower and Oxeye. This plant is considered as undemanding plant needing low water use, grows in sun or partial shade, dry soil moisture and tolerates wide range of soil condition. It is herbaceous perennial that grows to 3 to 5 feet. The plants can be found growing at roadside and open woodlands. Blooming time is from May to October.

The plants have stiff branching stems with opposite ovate toothed 3 veined mid to dark green above and lighter green below leaves. The flowers are long-stalked double, zinnia-like with 7 to 20 petals/rays yellow flower heads about 3 inches across. The ray flowers are fertile with forked pistil at their base and no male ray flowers. The central disk flowers contain both male and female parts. The true Sunflower ray flowers do not have female flower and do not produce seeds. Only the central disk flowers produce seeds. The flowers produce nectar and attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. Birds use the seeds as food.

Propagation is done by seeds in spring, stem cuttings and by division in fall. Recommendation is to divide every 2 to 3 years to maintain vigor of the plant.