

Oxeye Daisy



flower



stem



leaf

Oxeye Daisy

Genus: Chrysanthemum

Species: leucanthemum

Priority Listing: 2B

Short-lived Perennial

Oxeye daisy is native to Europe and the temperate regions of Asia. The unopened flower buds of this plant are similar in taste to a Mediterranean food called capers, which are often marinated and eaten.

This plant is very versatile and can thrive in various habitats such as meadows, pastures, woodlands, along irrigation ditches, roadsides, as well as disturbed areas such as hay fields, lawns, and gardens.

This plant has a shallow root system with branched **rhizomes** capable of growing new plants. Oxide daisy plants grow up to 3' in height; the dark green smooth stem is mostly unbranched. **Basal** and lower leaves of the plant are 2" to 5" long and are widest at the tip; these leaves

occur on long narrow stalks and have rounded teeth. Leaves that occur toward the stem **apex** are smaller in size; these leaves are toothed and do not grow on a long stalk.

Oxeye daisy flowers from June to August. Flowers are 1" to 2" in diameter, with each stem producing a flower. The flower head itself consists of about 20 white ray florets that encircle a depressed yellow disc shaped center. After pollination flower heads produce tiny, flat, black, ribbed seeds that can remain **viable** in the soil for up to 3 years. A single oxeye daisy plant can produce up to 500 seeds.

Oxeye daisy is difficult to control because it reproduces through both seed and rhizomes.



Photo courtesy of Gerald D. Carr, University of Oregon

Apex: the very tip of a growing part

Basal: leaves situated at the base of a plant, may look different than the plant's other leaves

Perennial: a plant whose life spans several years

Rhizomes: a perennial underground stem that usually grows horizontally

Viable: capable of growing or developing