

Packera aurea

Golden or Heartleaf Ragwort

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

The golden flowers of this [native](#), once classified as *Senecio aureus*, bloom for about three weeks in spring. After they fade, evergreen basal foliage serves as a pretty ground cover. This wildflower grows in moist fields and woods throughout much of the eastern United States and Canada.



Ground Cover	Foliage, Flowers (Buds, Close-up, En Masse), Fruit	
Height: ½–2½ feet	 	
Spread: ½–1½ feet		
Bloom Color: Yellow		
Characteristics	 	
Clump-forming, evergreen herbaceous perennial		
Toothed, heart-shaped, green basal leaves with a purple tinge beneath; alternate , sparse, petiolate or sessile , pinnatifid stem leaves		
Composite flowers with 6–16 yellow ray florets in terminal, flat-topped, corymbiform clusters on ca. 2-foot stems in April followed by one-seeded fruit (cypsela) with white barbellulate bristles (pappi)		
Spreads by self-seeding and, aggressively in optimal conditions, by rhizomes and often stolons		
Attributes	 	
Tolerates wet soil and seasonal flooding; no serious pests or diseases; deer rarely damage		
Blooms well even in shade		
Basal foliage may perform as evergreen ground cover with adequate moisture & in milder winters		
Ethnobotanic uses; may be harmful if ingested		
Attracts bees (small carpenter bee pictured) and butterflies; larval host to ~2 lepidopterans	 	
Growing and Maintenance Tips		Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Average		Alliaria petiolata - Garlic Mustard
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade, Shade		Euonymus fortunei - Wintercreeper
Water Requirements : Moist, Wet		Ficaria verna - Fig Buttercup, Lesser Celandine
Remove flowering stems after bloom (and before seeds scatter) to control spread, if desired, and to keep mat looking tidy	Hedera helix - English Ivy	
Use in woodland gardens and to control erosion	Liriope spicata - Creeping Liriope	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3a–8b	Ornithogalum species - Star of Bethlehem	
	Pachysandra terminalis - Japanese Pachysandra	
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>		

Images by Elaine Mills (top left), Glencarlyn Library Garden and by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden and Arlington, VA



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