

Downy Sunflower

Scientific Name: *Helianthus mollis*



| <u>Life Cycle</u> | <u>Plant Height</u> | <u>Plant Spacing</u> | <u>Soil Moisture</u> | <u>Sun Exposure</u> | <u>Bloom Period</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Perennial | 2 - 4 feet | 18 - 36 in. | Dry, Medium/Dry | Full, Partial | June - September |

Characteristic fine, soft, downy hairs cover the stems and leaves of Downy Sunflower, giving it a blueish-gray-green appearance. This classic composite Sunflower will bloom for many weeks in July-September. Its preference is for poor, drier soils, those with gravel, rock or clay, where it will form dense stands. But it will do well and actually grow taller in nutrient-rich medium soils, too. There is evidence that the root system has an allelopathic agent that prevents other plants from growing around it. Downy Sunflower is very aggressive - a quality some might look for, but in a small landscape setting it's a plant that could easily take over an entire area. Also, removal of the seed head before the seed is ripe is preferable to weeding unwanted seedlings. Ashy Sunflower is another common name for *Helianthus mollis*.

All information collected from www.prairiemoon.com