

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower heads. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer ROH Shepherd, Qld



Leafy stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Goulburn Weir, Vic



Rosette. Photographer Zoya Akulova, California, USA



Line drawings. c. inflorescence and leaves (lower leaf on right, upper on left); seed. E Beckett, University of Oxford, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Board

Common name

Willow-leaved Lettuce, Wild Lettuce

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Pastures, roadsides, gardens, and disturbed sites. Mainly Canberra and the Sydney area. Occasional elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced annual or **biennial** herb, usually less than 2 m high. Leaves sometimes with spines along the lower **midrib**. Stems hairless, whitish. Leaves green, basal and **alternating** up the stems, basal and lower stem leaves deeply **dissected**, rarely **entire**, 8–20 cm long, 5–50 mm wide, upper leaves entire to dissected, becoming **bract**-like below the flowers, sometimes with spines along the lower midrib, bases stem-clasping. Flower **heads** with 6–15 'petals', pale yellow, sometimes reddish on the back, each 4–5 mm long. Flower heads narrow cylindrical below the '**petals**', 7–15 mm long, very slender. Flower heads in clusters of 1–3 at the base of small leaves. Flowering: October–May.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Lactuca~saligna> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

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