

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower heads. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Junee



Plant. Photographer Don Wood, north of Bega



Plant. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW

Common name

Cotton Fireweed, Cottony Fireweed

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, **shrubland**, grassy areas, disturbed sites, and gullies. Widespread.

Notes

Perennial herb to 1.2 m tall, arising annually from the base. Stems densely white-hairy, old stems occasionally becoming hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3.5-22 cm long, 1-15 mm wide, upper surface **appressed-cobwebby**, often becoming hairless; lower surface usually moderately to densely **woolly**, rarely flushed purple, margins toothed, but the margins strongly rolled down and then the leaves appearing **entire**, sometimes **dissected** with 1 or 2 triangular lobes per side, tips pointed. Flower **heads** 6-10 mm long, cylindrical, green to purple with 18-50 yellow **florets** about the same length as the flower heads, 0 **petals**. Flower heads surrounded by 8-14 appressed **bracts**. Flower heads in clusters of about 40-300 flower heads. Flowers Spring to Autumn.

A feature of this species is the often precociously developed leafy growth at the bases of the leaves.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

Flora of Australia description: <https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Senecio%20quadridentatus> (accessed 29 January 2021)

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