

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Cooma



Flowering plant. Photographer Don Wood, The Pinnacle Reserve, Canberra, ACT



Plants. Photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Werribee, Vic

## Common name

Prickly lettuce

## Family

Asteraceae

## Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, grassy areas, roadsides, disturbed sites, and along streams. Widespread. Mostly in the Sydney area, tablelands, ACT, and Western Slopes.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** or **biennial** herb to to 3 m tall. Prickly, bristly, or hairless stems. Leaf margins and **midrib** spiny. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, usually held in a vertical plane, 3-20 cm long, 20-60 mm wide, **glaucous**, hairless, margins **entire** to **dissected**, basal lobes stem-clasping. Upper leaves becoming **bract** like below the flower **heads**. Flower heads rarely open. Open flower heads to about 20 mm in diameter, with 7-18 pale to bright yellow "petals" each 2.5-4 mm long. Flower heads below the '**petals**' narrow cylindrical, 6-10 mm long. Flower heads in open clusters. Flowers Spring to Autumn.

**f. integrifolia**: Lower leaves entire; mid-stem leaves entire or sometimes with a few shallow broad teeth; upper stem leaves and branch leaves entire

**f. serriola**: Lower leaves usually deeply dissected, rarely margins entire; stem leaves lobed to dissected in the middle third of the stem

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

Author: Betty Wood.

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