

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Buds, flower head, seeds, and leaves. Photographer Jackie Miles



Flowering plant. Photographer Don Wood, Mejors Creek south of Braidwood

Common name

Common sowthistle, Sow thistle

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

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

Notes

Introduced annual or **biennial** herb to about 1.8 m tall. Stems hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, sometimes also in a **rosette** at the base of the plant, 3-35 cm long, 20-120 mm wide, more or less leathery, hairless, sometimes **glaucous**, margins **entire** to **dissected**, toothed, with soft spines, not prickly, margins always more or less flexible, tips blunt or pointed. Stem leaves with pointed basal lobes, upper stem leaves strongly stem-clasping. Flower **heads** with 80-230 yellow '**petals**' each 5-8 mm long. Flower heads behind the '**petals**' 8-13 mm long, 5-6 mm in diameter, oval to top shaped. Flower heads in open clusters of few to many flower heads. Flowers most of the year.

Intermediate forms between *Sonchus asper* and *Sonchus oleraceus* are sometimes seen.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Sonchus~oleraceus> (accessed 6 February, 2021)

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