

School-to-Nature

Prairie Dock



- This plant has been called “Turpentine Weed” because its leaves and stems give off an aroma of resin when they are crushed.
- Everything about Prairie Dock is LARGE: the rough-feeling pointed leaves can reach 18 in. long and a foot wide, the tall flower stems can reach 7 ft. high, and lots of large golden daisy-like flowers bloom from July through September.
- Pollinators such as bees and flies are attracted to the flowers. Goldfinches and other seed-eating birds love to eat the seeds in fall.
- Native Americans and settlers brewed tea from the roots. Smoke from dried leaves and stems was thought to help with chest colds.
- This plant has a very long tap root. As a perennial plant, it grows taller each year. It is a hardy plant, almost completely insect/disease free.
- On Caledonia Conservancy lands, look for this plant in sunny areas at Trout Ponds Prairie and at King’s Corner.