

## Dandelion

*Taraxacum officinale* Weber in Wiggers

**Life cycle:** Rosette-forming simple perennial.

**Leaves:** All leaves originate from a basal rosette. Leaves are oblong to spatula-shaped, ranging from 2 to 10 inches long with deep, backward-pointing lobes. Leaves remain green year round and exude a milky sap when damaged.

**Stems:** Vegetative stems are not visible aboveground. Forms a deep, thick taproot.

**Flowers and fruit:** Bright yellow, solitary flower heads consisting of only ray flowers are 1 to 2 inches wide and found at the ends of unbranched, hollow, leafless flowering stalks. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, wind-disseminated fruit that forms in a globe-shaped collection.



All photos this page: Steven A. Gower

*Dandelion plant.*

**Reproduction:** Seeds and new shoots from a taproot.

*Dandelion seedling.*



*Yellow flower head of dandelion.*



*Mature dandelion seed head.*