

Silphium perfoliatum var. *perfoliatum*,

Cup-plant

The one documented occurrence of this plant in the Capital Region is at Saratoga Battlefield National Park. Though native to other parts of the U.S., the species is considered invasive in New York state where its large size can prevent native species from growing. There are larger populations of this plant in the Adirondacks in Keene Valley and along river's edge sites.

Population Status: Confirmed- Saratoga Co.

Description: This plant is a perennial and grows somewhere between four and ten feet tall. It has large, opposite leaves which form cups around the stem where the plant holds water. The seeds are spread via wind dispersal.

Control: Plants can be hand pulled when possible, though there is a taproot that must be removed for true eradication efforts.

Look-alikes: Cup plant looks like sunflower species such as woodland sunflower but is distinguishable by its wide perfoliate leaves that can hold water as well as the hairless square stems.

Flower Time and Description: The flowers resemble two to five inch sunflowers and have 20-35 petals around a darker yellow center. This plant blooms in late summer to early fall.

