

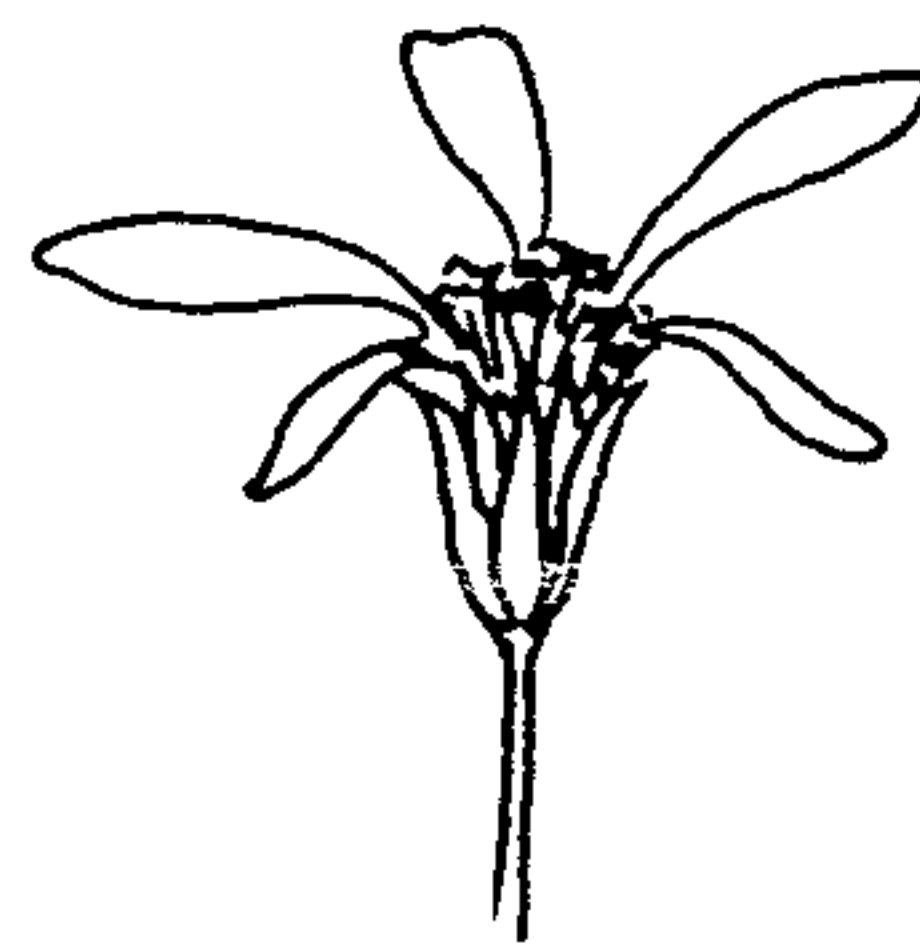
LOOK AGAIN !

Among the many yellow-flowered composites occurring in our region are a couple of very tall (6 ft. or more) plants in the genus Verbesina. They may be readily recognized by their stems, which are conspicuously winged by the decurrent bases of the leaf stalks.

Verbesina alternifolia, known simply as Wingstem, has lanceolate leaves arranged alternately, and numerous flower heads in an open panicle. The disk flowers spread widely to form small globose heads, and there are between 2 and 10 drooping rays varying in length from $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1". The involucre has only a few reflexed bracts.



V. ALTERNIFOLIA



V. OCCIDENTALIS

V. occidentalis, Yellow Crownbeard, has opposite, ovate leaves, and its flowers are loosely arranged in an open flat-topped corymb. In this species the disk flowers are erect, the rays number less than 6 and are under $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, and the involucre bracts are numerous and not reflexed.

A third member of the genus is V. virginica. It also has a winged stem, but there are only 3 to 5 very short rays, and both the disk and ray flowers are white. It is commonly referred to as White Crownbeard.

There are other genera in the Asteraceae with plants having winged stems, but none attains as great a height as these three species.

Dick Smith