Yellow ironweed thrives in consistently moist, organically rich soils, but also tolerates some dry conditions. It’s easy to grow from seed and is the larval host to the gold moth, summer azure butterfly, and the silvery checkerspot. It is considered an important plant for bees but can spread aggressively. Its native habitat is fertile areas of moist wooded slopes and open woodlands, riverbanks, shaded lowlands, roadsides and fields.

**Type:** perennial native wildflower  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 4a through 8a  
**Uses:** border; mass planting; container  
**Origin:** not native to Florida  
**Height:** 4 to 8 feet  
**Spread:** 2 to 6 feet  
**Plant spacing:** 2 to 6 feet  
**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade  
**Soil tolerances:** acid to neutral; clay; loam; sand  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown  
**Invasive potential:** moderate  
**Pest resistance:** no serious pests or diseases

Photo: Daderot; N.C. Cooperative Extension