

****Sonchus oleraceus***
Commonly: Common Sowthistle
Vascular Plant Family: Asteraceae

Flowers late winter and spring

**Sonchus oleraceus* is a annual or biennial herb up to 1.5m tall. It is native to Europe, Asia and Northern Africa but is now a widespread weed.

The flower heads are yellow, all with a yellow ligule (petal), up to 7mm across



The flower bracts are up to 1.2cm long, either with or without glandular hairs.



The pappus of the fruit consist of numerous soft white hairs which aid in seed dispersal.



The seeds are up to 4mm long, finely transversely wrinkled between the ribs.



The soft leaves are up to 30cm long and 15cm wide either toothed or deeply divided but not spiny.



*Indicates it is a weed