



DANDELION



INTERESTING FACTS

The leaves give this plant its name. Long ago, the jagged edges were called "lions teeth."

In sunshine, the bright yellow flowers open wide. When it is cloudy or dark, they close up tight.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Dandelions grow between a few inches and 1 1/2 feet tall.

Dandelion leaves are smooth. The edges are deeply cut with triangle shapes. The flower's stem is hollow and has milky juice inside.

Each stem has a yellow flower. The flower has many thin petals and is about the size of a quarter. The flower becomes a ball of white fluff. Each tiny seed is attached to a fluffy thread. The seeds scatter easily when you blow on them.



Look on lawns, fields, roadsides and meadows.

Dandelions grow across the United States, almost anywhere plants are found.

Bees, and some flies and spiders like the flowers. Goldfinches, siskins, sparrows, grouse and pheasants gobble the seeds. Rabbits, deer, porcupines and gophers like to eat the plants. People sometimes eat young dandelion leaves as salad or dry the root and grind it up to drink like coffee.

The milky juice inside dandelion stems can be harmful if swallowed.