**Packera aurea**

**golden ragwort**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Asteraceae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Native</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIS Code</td>
<td>FAC CoC 4</td>
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**DESCRIPTION**

This herbaceous perennial has smooth stems (30-80 cm tall) growing from creeping rhizomes (underground stems). Stem and basal leaves differ in appearance. Heart-shaped leaves with rounded toothed margins are mostly clustered at the stem base on slender stalks. The few stem leaves are stalkless, elongated with deep lobes and bluntly toothed margins.

**FLOWERS AND FRUITS**

Early April through July. Bright yellow daisy-like flowers form in flat-top clusters on slender stalks at the upper stem tips. Fruit is a fuzzy puffball of small brown seeds.

**HABITAT**

Floodplain forests, stream banks, swamps, seeps, fens, wet meadows, roadsites; abundant in the mountains.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

Marsh marigold and garlic mustard look similar when only basal leaves are present. Note the leaf veins for differences. *Packera aurea* veins start from the leaf midrib. *Caltha palustris*, marsh marigold, veins radiate from a single point at the leaf base. *Alliaria petiolata*, garlic mustard, leaves smell strongly of garlic.