Common groundsel
*Senecio vulgaris* L.

**Life cycle**
Summer or winter annual capable of multiple generations per year.

**Leaves**
Alternate, sparsely hairy to smooth with variable leaf shape. Young leaf margins may be smooth to slightly wavy; older leaves have deep, irregular lobes and coarsely toothed margins. Lower leaves have short stalks; upper leaves are stalkless.

**Stems**
Smooth, erect and multiple-branched. Usually no taller than 12 inches.

**Flowers and fruit**
Numerous yellow, cylindrical- to cone-shaped flower heads are produced in clusters at the stem ends. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, wind-disseminated fruit that forms in a white, approximately 0.5-inch-wide puffball collection.

**Reproduction**
Seeds.

*Asteraceae* (Aster family)