Dandelion
*Taraxacum officinale* Weber in Wiggers

**Life cycle**
Rosette-forming simple perennial.

**Leaves**
All leaves originate from a basal rosette. Leaves are oblong to spatula-shaped, ranging from 2 to 10 inches long with deep, backward-pointing lobes. Leaves remain green year round and exude a milky sap when damaged.

**Stems**
Vegetative stems are not visible aboveground. Plant forms a deep, thick taproot.

**Flowers and fruit**
Bright yellow, solitary flower heads consisting of only ray flowers are 1 to 2 inches wide and found at the ends of unbranched, hollow, leafless flowering stalks. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, wind-disseminated fruit that forms in a globe-shaped collection.

**Reproduction**
Seeds and new shoots from a taproot.

Asteraceae (Aster family)