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, cylinder- 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.
Common groundsel *continued*

Common groundsel plant.

Common groundsel flower head. Mature seedhead of common groundsel.

*Asteraceae* (Aster family)