

# *Silphium laciniatum*

# Compass Plant

## Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance

Usually a mesic prairie species, which does not tolerate inundation in artificial situations. This is not necessarily true in natural areas, as it is occasionally seen in sedge meadows and wet prairies.

## Wildlife Value

Songbirds eat seed. Deer graze on plant. This species attracts butterflies and provides a food source for silphium weevil.

## Application/Zone

Used for upland slope buffer stabilization.

## Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance

- Propagation is very successful from seed. Because of a tough seed coat, moist, cold stratification at 33-38° F for 10-60 days is beneficial. After stratification, sow seeds at a shallow depth (1/2 inch) in the spring.
- This is a very slow growing plant above ground. It may only grow one leaf in the first year and may need some protection.
- Direct seeding has been moderately successful.
- Deep taproot discourages transplanting, but can be successful if the taproot is not broken.
- Fall seeding can be very successful.

# Compass Plant

*Silphium laciniatum*

**Mature Height**

Up to 10 feet

**Plant Type**

Perennial herb

**Indicator Status**

Upland

**pH**

4.5-7.5

**Nutrient Load Tolerance**

Low

**Salt Tolerance**

Not available

**Siltation Tolerance**

Low

**Flowering Color and Time**

Yellow

July to September

**Light Preference**

Full sun

**Seeding Rate**

.03 - .19 lbs/acre

