



## Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia Hirta*)

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Black-eyed Susan is a flowering plant in the sunflower family. It has bright, yellow-orange 2 - 3 inch daisy-like flowers with dark black-brown centers. The stems and oval leaves are covered with bristly hairs, and the center disk becomes a hard head of dry brown/black seeds that persist into winter.

Type	Annual, Biennial, Short-lived Perennial, Perennial - depends on cultivar
Hardiness Zone	3 - 9
Sun	Any sunny location, but will tolerate partial sun
Bloom Time	June - October
Height	1' - 3'
Spread	1' - 2'
Tolerance	Drought tolerant
Attracts	Nectar for bees, butterflies and moths, and seeds for birds. Hosts larvae for Gorgone Checkerspot and Bordered Patch Butterfly
Additional Features	Deer resistant

### Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: prefers well-drained soil
- Soil pH: acidic soil with a pH of < 6.8
- Type: tolerant of a variety of soils, including clay, loam and sandy
- Placement considerations: will grow in sunny locations: prairies, open woods, roadsides, along lake shore, disturbed areas, and cutting and pollinator gardens. Provide good air circulation to avoid powdery mildew.

### Planting Recommendations

- Type: seeds or plants
- When to plant: spring or fall
- Depth of planting: 1/4 to 1/2 inches deep, plants - follow label instructions
- Mulching: not necessary, however it helps with weed and moisture control
- Spacing: 10-12 inches
- Spread: reseeds readily, to contain its aggressive behavior dead head once blooms fade
- Division/transplant tips: Propagates easily from seeds sown in spring or fall or from division of plants.

## Maintenance

- Watering: medium to dry; very drought tolerant; does not like soggy soil
- Fertilization: depends on soil recommendations
- Pinching/deadheading: Pinch dead flowers back at base of stem to extend flowering time; may also cut stems back after blooming to get a second surge of flowers in the fall.
- Annual maintenance: clean up dead debris in fall

## Common Problems

Disease: extremely hardy, susceptible to powdery mildew. See link below.

Insects minimal

## Resources

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/black-eyed-susan>

<https://mnnativelandscapes.com/product/black-eyed-susan>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=277225>

Questions or problems: “What’s wrong with my plant?”

<https://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/annualperennial/rudbeckia/index.html>

## Cultivars

Black-eyed Susan is a native wildflower in 2/3 of East and Central North America. Black-eyed Susan cultivars are popular in the nursery trade; hirta and fulgida/coneflower are the most common. There are 43 different varieties of black-eyed Susan; they range from annuals to biennials, short-lived perennials or perennials.



**Black-eyed Susan Gloriosa Daisy**



**Black-eyed Susan Hirta**

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