

Black-Eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

Easy to grow and tough as nails, black-eyed Susan is a sunny-colored wildflower that is salt and drought tolerant making it an excellent choice for coastal landscapes. The plant forms a mound of foliage topped with a bright display of flowers characterized by brown centers surrounded by red, orange, yellow, or golden petals and is perfect for butterfly gardens. Plants can become weeds in the garden because seeds germinate readily in nearby beds. What a wonderful weed to have in the garden! High salt tolerance makes *Rudbeckia* well-suited for planting close to the beach. Remove faded blossoms to prompt more profuse blooming. Black-eyed Susans also make great cut flowers. Unlike many other black-eyed Susans this one does not require staking.

Type: annual; perennial; biennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 2 through 11

Uses: mass planting; border; cut flowers

Origin: native to North America

Height: 1 to 3 feet **Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: good

Invasive potential: may self-seed each year

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

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Photo: UF/IFAS