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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