



# Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## *Helianthus maximiliani*

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

4801 La Crosse Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78739-1702  
(512) 292-4200  
[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

### Common name

Maximilian sunflower

### Range

Frequent in seasonally moist ditches, depressions, or prairies of north-central and southeastern Texas, and in the Trans Pecos. It is sometimes seen in the Plains Country. Other species include *H. annuus*, an annual which grows in the eastern and southern halves of Texas, and *H. angustifolius*, a perennial occurring in moist areas of east and southeast Texas.

### Life cycle

Perennial

### Bloom period

Late summer - fall

### Soil preference

Moist clay-like soil, but tolerant of a wide range of soils.

### Exposure

Sun

### Propagation

The easiest method of increase is by splitting the rootstock clump in February or early spring. Replant and water immediately.

Seed in early winter. Rake into loose topsoil or cover with 1/4 - 1/2 inches of soil or mulch. Germination may be sparse the first year because a long cold period is a pre-germination requirement.

### Seeding rate

Seeding should be sparse to allow adequate space for growth. 5 lb. per acre or 2 oz. per 100 square foot.



### Maintenance

Fertile soil often produces lush growth and weak stems, which are likely to fall over. Stake plants if stems begin to arch before flowering.

Plants will improve in appearance if watered during periods of drought.

### Miscellaneous

Sunflowers are reported to produce a substance that prevents successful growth of other plants in their immediate vicinity. Plants that secrete a chemical toxic to other plants are said to be allelopathic. It is a palatable forb for livestock and wildlife.