



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Rudbeckia hirta

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

Common name

Black-eyed Susan

Range

Rudbeckia is a native of midwest North America. *R. hirta* grows in a wide range of soil and climates in the eastern two-thirds of the United States (east of the Rocky Mountains) from New Foundland to Mexico.

Life Cycle

Annual or short-lived perennial

Bloom period

June through October

Soil preference

Well-drained soils including , sand, loam, clay.

Exposure

Sun to light partial shade

Propagation

R. hirta can be planted in the early spring, although fall seeding is recommended. Rake seed into a loose topsoil or cover with ¼ to ½ inch of soil or mulch. If possible, supplement with water if fall or spring rains are infrequent and light. The seed requires several days of moisture and should germinate in one to two weeks.

Seeding rate

Two or four pounds per acre, 1 oz. per 100 sq. ft. With more than a million seeds per pound, the lighter seeding rate will probably produce a dense, pure stand of flowers if late spring and early summer rains are adequate.



Maintenance

Black-eyed Susans are drought tolerant but respond well to an occasional watering. Additional irrigation in a dry year will improve the density of the stand and lengthen the flowering season.

Do not mow until after the plants have formed mature seed cones, about three to four weeks after flowering. (Check by breaking a cone open and if the seeds are dark, they are mature.) The number of volunteer plants can be limited by removing the seed heads after the flowers are done.

Miscellaneous

Rudbeckias are suited for a sunny border and are tolerant of poor soils and dry conditions. A flower bed that is shaded for more than a few hours during the day will produce leggy plants.