

## ***Rudbeckia hirta* - Blackeyed Susan**



Native to the sunny meadows and roadsides of the eastern and central United States, blackeyed Susan was used as a medicinal by Native Americans as a remedy for colds, infection and snakebite. It also is the state flower of Maryland. Plants grow 2-3 feet tall by 18 inches wide. Golden yellow, 2-4 inch, solitary flowers are composed of ray florets that surround dark brown centers and bloom June

through September.

Hardiness is uncertain, so it is best to grow blackeyed Susan as an annual, biennial or tender perennial and allow plants to self sow. Plant in lean, well-drained soil in sun to part sun. Deadhead spent flowers to prolong bloom. Blackeyed Susan is difficult to divide but tolerates dry conditions. In fact, flowering is longer during dry summers than during wet ones. Fungal diseases can occur during humid or rainy weather. Avoid overhead watering.

Blackeyed Susan is a good cut flower and attracts butterflies.