

***Rudbeckia triloba* - Browneyed Susan**



Native to old fields and roadsides of the eastern and central United States, browneyed Susan is a clump-forming perennial, growing 2-3 feet tall by 18 inches wide. From July to October, one and one-half inch, deep gold flowers bloom profusely. The flowers have small ray florets surrounding purplish-black raised centers.

Hardy to USDA zone 5 (-20 degrees F), browneyed Susan is longer lived than blackeyed Susan (*R. hirta*), but technically is listed as a biennial or short-lived perennial of 2-3 years. Plants grow best in sun to part shade in moist soil and are drought, heat, and pest tolerant. Support may be necessary if plants are sited in part shade. Cutting back plants by one-third in early June before flowering will produce sturdier plants. Browneyed Susan is a prolific seeder. While allowing some plants to stand and self-sow, cut back most of the flowering stems to basal foliage after flowering to limit seeding. Basal foliage usually remains evergreen.

Browneyed Susan is much loved by hummingbirds and butterflies, and birds enjoy its seeds. It is a good cut flower and plants are deer resistant.