


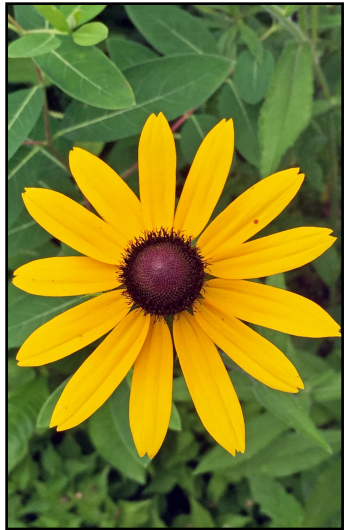
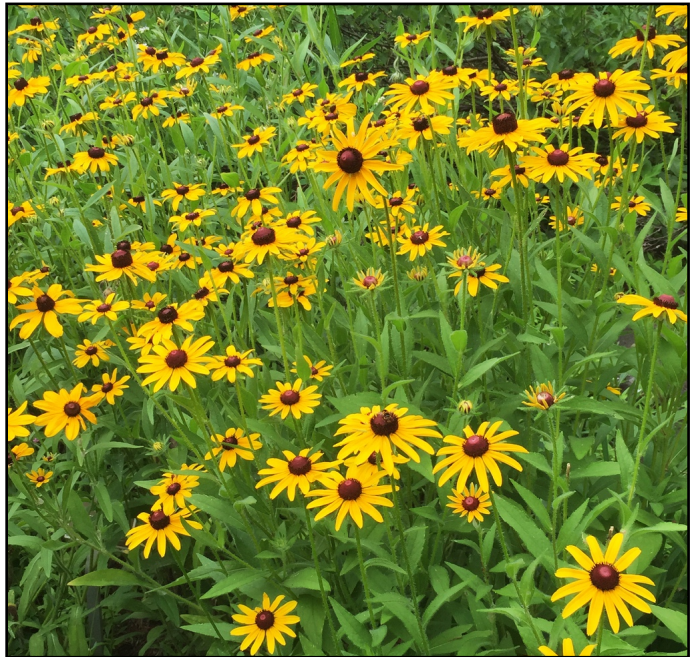
Rudbeckia hirta

Black-eyed Susan

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Although a number of plants share the common name Black-eyed Susan, it is *Rudbeckia hirta*, which was designated the “Floral Emblem” of Maryland in 1918. This familiar, cherished flower is at home in private gardens as it is in wildflower meadows or prairie restorations.



Perennial	Hairy Leaflets and Bud, Flower, En Masse
Height: 1–3½ feet	 
Spread: 1–2 feet	
Bloom Color: Yellow with black or brown eye	
Characteristics	
Short-lived, clump-forming perennial (biennial)	
Develops first as oblong-leaved rosette	
Long white hairs on rigid, upright stems and small stiff hairs covering 3–7 inch long, lance-shaped leaves distinguish it from other <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	
Daisy-like composite flowers, 2–4 inches wide, with yellow rays and brown/black dome-shaped disc, bloom from June to October, sometimes only in the second year after which the plant dies	
Freely self-seeds and easily established	
Attributes	
Tolerates heat, drought, clay soil; dislikes poorly-drained, wet soils	
No serious pests or diseases though susceptible to powdery mildew; deer seldom severely damage	
Attracts bees, wasps, syrphid flies, butterflies to flowers and birds, especially goldfinches, to the seeds; larval host to Silvery Checkerspot	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained	<i>Leucanthemum</i> species - Ox-Eye & Shasta Daisies
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Tanacetum</i> species - Tansy
Water Requirements: Dry, Moist	
Deadhead spent flowers to encourage re-bloom or to prevent self-seeding	
Use as mass plantings, in borders & annual beds	*It is native in DC and MD, adventive in DE, and scattered about PA, but mostly concentrated in the western part of the state. It is common throughout VA.
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–7	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, private garden, Arlington, VA and U.S. National Arboretum