

# Rudbeckia for the Mississippi Gardener



Rudbeckia is one of those groups of plants that really can make a statement in the home garden and landscape. A favorite flower with almost every Southern gardener, it is known by several common names: black-eyed Susan, brown-eyed Susan, and Gloriosa. These plants produce an abundance of bright yellow and orange flowers, each with a dark, button-shaped cone in the center.

There are several Rudbeckia species and selections for gardeners to choose from. *Rudbeckia hirta* is a Mississippi native wildflower and is a staple plant in naturalized areas and meadows. Rudbeckia are also reliable garden and landscape performers for pollinator and butterfly gardens.

Some varieties are true annuals, others are true perennials, and the rest are somewhere in between. It really doesn't matter which selections you choose because all of these will put on a summer show in the Mississippi garden and landscape.



## Cultural Information

All Rudbeckia should be planted in full sun for ideal flowering and color development. These plants will grow best in compost-amended, well-drained soils, but they are tolerant of poor, clay soils. Growing them in large containers is an excellent way to improve drainage. Be sure to use commercial potting media when growing in containers.

While Rudbeckia are known and grown for their tolerance of droughty conditions, for best landscape performance, provide consistent soil moisture. Rudbeckia are considered lower maintenance plants, but deadheading fading flowers will keep the plants blooming all summer long.

Here are some recommended Rudbeckia selections for Mississippi gardens and landscapes:



### *Goldsturm* (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm')

Perennial Plant of the Year, 1999

Foliage color: green

Growth habit: upright

Plant size: up to 36 inches tall, 24 inches wide

Bloom period: summer

Flower color: bright yellow

Flower size: 2½ inches



***Cappuccino (Rudbeckia hirta 'Cappuccino')***

Foliage color: green  
Growth habit: upright  
Plant size: 18 inches tall, 12 inches wide  
Bloom period: summer, fall  
Flower color: orange-red  
Flower size: up to 4 inches



***Denver Daisy (Rudbeckia hirta 'Denver Daisy')***

Foliage color: green  
Growth habit: upright  
Plant size: up to 24 inches tall, 18 inches wide  
Bloom period: summer  
Flower color: golden yellow and mahogany red eye  
Flower size: up to 6 inches



***Cherokee Sunset (Rudbeckia hirta 'Cherokee Sunset')***

All-America Selections, 2002  
Foliage color: green  
Growth habit: upright  
Plant size: up to 2 feet tall, 18 inches wide  
Bloom period: summer, fall  
Flower color: variable yellow, gold, orange, brown  
Flower size: up to 4 inches



***Early Bird Gold (Rudbeckia fulgida 'Early Bird Gold')***

Foliage color: green  
Growth habit: upright  
Plant size: up to 24 inches tall, 24 inches wide  
Bloom period: summer, fall  
Flower color: golden yellow  
Flower size: 2½ inches



***Cherry Brandy (Rudbeckia hirta 'Cherry Brandy')***

Foliage color: green  
Growth habit: upright  
Plant size: up to 2 feet tall, 2 feet wide  
Bloom period: summer  
Flower color: cherry-red and crimson  
Flower size: 3 inches



***Tiger Eye (Rudbeckia hirta 'Tiger Eye')***

Foliage color: green  
Growth habit: upright  
Plant size: up to 24 inches tall, 18 inches wide  
Bloom period: summer, fall  
Flower color: orange-gold  
Flower size: 4 inches; semi-double



***Goldilocks (Rudbeckia hirta 'Goldilocks')***

Foliage color: deep green  
Growth habit: upright  
Plant size: up to 24 inches tall, 18 inches wide  
Bloom period: summer, fall  
Flower color: golden yellow  
Flower size: 6 inches; semi-double, double



***Indian Summer (Rudbeckia hirta 'Indian Summer')***

All-America Selections, 1995  
Mississippi Medallion, 1999  
Flower color: green  
Growth habit: upright  
Plant size: up to 3½ feet tall, 2 feet wide  
Bloom period: summer  
Flower color: golden yellow  
Flower size: up to 9 inches



***Irish Eyes (Rudbeckia hirta 'Irish Eyes')***

Foliage color: deep green

Growth habit: upright

Plant size: up to 30 inches tall, 18 inches wide

Bloom period: summer, fall

Flower color: yellow-gold, green center cone

Flower size: 5 inches



***Prairie Sun (Rudbeckia hirta 'Prairie Sun')***

All-America Selections, 2003

Foliage color: green

Growth habit: upright

Plant size: up to 36 inches tall, 18 inches wide

Bloom period: summer

Flower color: bright yellow with primrose center, green center cone

Flower size: up to 5 inches

---

Publication 3506 (POD-08-20)

By Gary R. Bachman, PhD, Extension/Research Professor, Coastal Research and Extension Center.



*Copyright 2020 by Mississippi State University. All rights reserved. This publication may be copied and distributed without alteration for nonprofit educational purposes provided that credit is given to the Mississippi State University Extension Service.*

Produced by Agricultural Communications.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law is prohibited. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Compliance and Integrity, 56 Morgan Avenue, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (662) 325-5839.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. GARY B. JACKSON, Director