

# 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.

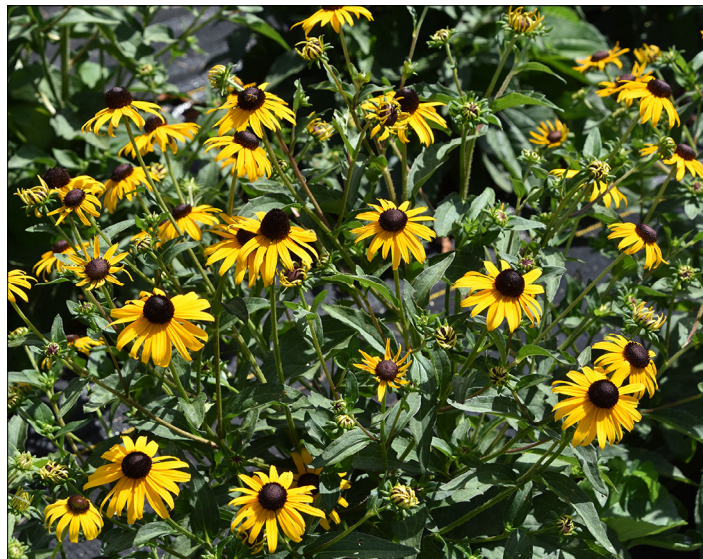
Some varieties are true annuals, others are true perennials, and the rest are somewhere in between. It really doesn't matter which selections you choose because all of these will put on a summer show in the Mississippi garden and landscape.

## 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



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