

Black eyed susan

Rudbeckia fulgida

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

3–9

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun

BLOOM

Summer

HEIGHT

2–3 ft

DEER

Resistant

ORIGIN

North American native

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

There are two plants sold as black-eyed Susan. *Rudbeckia hirta* is a biennial or short-lived perennial -- 2 to 3 years at most -- that relies on self-seeding to persist in the garden. *Rudbeckia fulgida* is a genuine long-lived perennial, hardy zones 3 to 9, that spreads by rhizome and returns reliably for decades. Per NC State Extension Plant Toolbox, *R. hirta* is described as a "biennial; perennial; short-lived perennial" that "blooms in the first year when planted from seed in early spring; often mistaken for an annual." Buy the right one for your goals.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/black-eyed-susan-care/>

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