

Black Eyed Susan

With the first day of summer just around the corner it is time to plant Black Eyed Susan. This family of flowers is outstanding in our summer heat and always gives a good fall show of color. They make a spectacular display planted in a meadow setting, along parking strips or just mixed in the border. They are easily started from seed and provide a wide array of colors from which to choose. The palette of colors range from rusty autumnal oranges, browns, to fresh yellow with green eyes. You just can't go wrong with this plant.

Size: 2'-3' tall depending on variety. Short varieties 10" – 18"

Exposure: Full sun

How to Plant: Plant from seed in spring in cell packs or direct sow in the garden. Press seeds into the soil but do not cover. Germination is best when temperatures are above 70 degrees. Germination may take 2-3 weeks.

Pruning: Remove spent blossoms or let them stay to re-seed.

Water needs: Regular watering, but do not over water. They can take dry weather.

Soil: Grow in regular soil; will also grow in dryer, leaner soils.

Snapshot: They are also known as the genus Rudbeckia, a member of the Asteraceae family. The Black Eyed Susan, Brown Eyed Susan and Gloriosa daisy are all members this family. Black Eyed Susans are known for growing in the prairies and fields in the mid-west during hot dry summers. This makes them perfect for our long, dry, hot summers. They come in all sizes the smaller one ,Becky, is perfect for containers and limited spaces. They attract birds, butterflies, bees and make excellent cut flowers. Check out the newer Cherry Brandy or Cappuccino colors -simply stunning.

Novella Springer

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