
ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH406



HELIOPSIS

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: False sunflower
- Scientific name: *Heliopsis helianthoides*
- Native to North America
- Coarse perennial growing up to 5' tall
- Oval, dark green leaves with sandpapery surfaces and toothed margins
- Yellow, daisy-like blossoms are 2'' in diameter and composed of 10-16 pointed ray flowers
- Blooming season lasts up to 12 weeks
- Tolerates both severe winters and hot summers
- Hardy in zones 2-9

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Will grow in most any moderately fertile soil
- Prefers full sun but tolerates partial shade
- New shoots are slow to emerge in spring
- Dividing plants occasionally keeps them vigorous

PROPAGATION

- Easily grown from seed
- Sow seeds outdoors two weeks before last frost
- To produce transplants, sow seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost

- Seeds germinate in 1-2 weeks at 68-70°F
- Keep young plants evenly moist
- Cuttings can be taken from non-flowering shoots in the summer

DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
 - White coating forms on underside of leaves
 - Leaves wilt, brown, and drop
 - Reduce humidity and remove infected plants
- Rust (*Puccinia sp.*)
 - Brown pustules form on underside of leaves
 - Remove infected plants

CONSUMER CARE

- Adapted to prairie fires; growing well in meadows maintained by prescribed burning
- Remove spent flowers to prevent plants from self-seeding and becoming weeds

- Flowers attract butterflies
- Excellent source of cut flowers

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Heliopsis helianthoides*
 - ‘Ballerina’: semi-double gold flowers
 - ‘Prairie Sunset’: yellow flowers with red centers
- *Heliopsis scabra*
 - ‘Summer Sun’: golden flowers

References

http://www.floridata.com/ref/H/heli_hel.cfm

<http://www.oldhouseweb.com/gardening/garden/01700465.shtml>

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