



# NRCS Species for Plant Collections 2007

*Helianthus angustifolius* L.

**Scientific Name:** *Helianthus angustifolius* L.

**Common Name:** Swamp Sunflower



## **Morphological Characteristics:**

**Habit-** native warm season perennial forb reaching 3 to 6 ft tall; flowers in early fall; reproduces by seed and sprigs

**Leaves-** slender, alternate, simple, covered in short, stiff hairs creating a very rough texture, almost fleshy to the touch

**Flowers-** many, radiate, bright yellow, 3-7 cm in diameter, 10-13 rays, dark purple disks in center

**Fruit-** achenes, 3-4 mm long, flattened, dull black, mottled with tan

**Other-** stems slender, rough pubescent, branched at top of plant with each branch ending in a flower

**Habitat and Range:** throughout east Texas and Louisiana in low, disturbed sites, open flat woods, and some upland areas, its range extends through out much of the eastern half of the United States, north to New York



© Thomas G. Barnes

## **Conservation Use:**

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; 342 Critical Area Planting; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 550 Range Planting. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

## **Centers Requesting Seed:**

East Texas PMC

## **How to Collect Seed**

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://www.plants.usda.gov> , <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper sack. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the species.

Knox City Plant Materials Center  
3776 FM 1292  
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

E. Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center  
3409 N FM 1355  
Kingsville, TX 78363

East Texas Plant Materials Center  
SFA Experiment Forest FM 2782  
Nacogdoches, TX 75964

## Helpful Tips

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

## Other Photos:



---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, Large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.