

## **United States Department of Agriculture**

# 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan

Rudbeckia hirta L.

## A Conservation Plant Release by USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center, Corning, New York



Close-up of 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan in full bloom. Photo taken at the USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center.

'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta* L.) is a cultivar released by the USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center, in 1985, in cooperation with the Maine Department of Transportation. It was named in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

## **Description**

'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan is 1.5 to 3 feet tall. The leaves are oblong, and the whole plant is very hairy. The flower heads have yellowish-orange rays and dark brown spherical centers. Blooming occurs from June to September. This plant is usually a biennial and may be influenced by climatic location. It is a short-lived perennial in the southern part of its region of adaptation and an annual in the northern region.

#### Source

'Golden Jubilee' was collected, in the mid-70's, along Interstate 91, south of Westminster, Vermont. Following extensive comparison, from 1977 to 1981, with 67 other native and commercial strains, it was released cooperatively by the NRCS and the Maine Department of Transportation. The number of flowers produced by 'Golden Jubilee' is typical of other strains of black-eyed susan, but is shorter, flowers longer and seed production capabilities are excellent.

#### **Conservation Uses**

'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan is a beautiful native wildflower that has been domesticated for use in the Northeast. It can be direct seeded in a mixture with other erosion control plants for roadside plantings, mine revegetation, streambank stabilization, landfills or similar disturbed areas associated with construction. It can be seeded in solid stands. 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan can also be used for landscaping and other natural seedings to enhance wildlife value by attracting insects and providing browse.

## Area of Adaptation and Use

'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan's adaptability ranges from well-drained to somewhat poorly drained soils. It is also adapted to most soil textures except heavy clays or very sandy soils. It is winter hardy in areas where low temperatures are between -30  $^{\circ}$  and -20  $^{\circ}$  F.



Area of adaptation and use for 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan.

## **Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings**

Establishment: 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan is best established when it is included in erosion control mixtures, using standard seeding techniques. These techniques include hydroseeding with wood-fiber mulch, broadcast plantings or drilling. Because of its small seed size, black-eyed susan germinates well without much soil cover, provided there is good seed-soil contact. Moisture must be available throughout the germination period, so broadcast plantings should be mulched. The recommended amount of seed to include in the mixture is 1 lb per acre or ½ ounce per 1,000 square feet. Slightly higher rates should be used if the seed is planted in a solid stand. Solid seedings are not recommended where severe

erosion hazards exist. To ensure continual bloom, seed 'Golden Jubilee' for two consecutive years. Planting should follow the average last killing frost date.

Management: 'Golden Jubilee' will germinate within 10 days after planting. While the plants are in the 1-3 leaf stage, they are sensitive to herbicide application. After reaching the 4-6 leaf stage, pre-emergent herbicides can be used safely. Mowing can also be used to control annual weeds in the first year, if mower height is above black-eyed susan plants.

For 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan, the recommended fertilization is 300 pounds of a 10-10-10 fertilizer per acre or 7 pounds of a 10-10-10 fertilizer per 1,000 square feet. Fertilizer can be applied as a pre-plant treatment or side-dressed during the middle of the first growing season. Periodic fertilization may be required to maintain stand vigor and appearance.



Seed production field of 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan at the USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center.

After establishment, competing perennial vegetation should be controlled through the use of mechanical or chemical practices. If competing vegetation is not controlled, a decrease in the number of black-eyed susan plants will be observed. Frequent mowing will delay or prevent flowering. Mowing after mid-June in northern climates or mid-July in southern climates may prevent flowering entirely.

## **Ecological Considerations**

There are no major insect or disease pests of 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan.

#### **Seed and Plant Production**

'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan must be planted in a well prepared, weed-free seedbed. A soil pH range of 6.5 to 6.8 is recommended for optimal growth and seed production. Mowing and herbicide applications can be used according to label instructions. Precision seeders are best used for planting due to the low seeding rate, of 1 to 2 lb per acre. Seed should be planted ½ inch deep and cultipacked after planting.

### Availability

For conservation use: 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan is routinely available in commercial nurseries throughout the United States.

For seed or plant increase: 'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan seed is available for nurseries to establish their own seed through the USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center, Corning, New York.

For more information, contact:
USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials
Center
3266 State Route 352
Corning, New York 14830
607-562-8404 (phone)
1-855-401-1955 (fax)
http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/nypmc/

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/</a>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <a href="http://plants.usda.gov">http://plants.usda.gov</a> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <a href="http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov">http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov</a>>