

black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Black-eyed Susan is also known as brown-eyed Susan. Its hairy stems are upright and sometimes branched. The plant's simple, lance-shaped leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each hairy leaf has a sparsely-toothed margin. One flower head is produced per plant. The flower head contains many small flowers that are of two types: yellow ray flowers (10 to 20 per flower head), about three-fourths inch long; and purple-brown, tubular flowers in the dome-shaped center. Some individual plants may have pale-yellow ray flowers with white tips. Each flower head is about two and one-half to two and three-fourths inches wide. This plant may grow to a height of two to three feet.

BEHAVIORS

Black-eyed Susan may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in moist prairies, open woods, roadsides and fields. Flowering occurs from June through September.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge; hill prairie

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2016. Biodiversity of Illinois.