



Patrie, Phil, NY State, 1987

Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*

- 1 - 2 feet tall; biennial; native to NJ & eastern north America
- Bright yellow flower heads June – September
- Tender perennial, but self-seeds and spreads easily
- Dry to moist, well-drained soil; full sun
- Attracts bees and butterflies, songbirds eat the ripe seeds
- Host plant to 19 species of caterpillar
- Tolerates deer, clay
- Collect brown seed heads when petals drop, July – October
- Allow to dry briefly, then shake or rub seeds out of the seed head
- Store seeds cold and dry to maintain dormancy
- Press seeds into moist soil surface, do not cover with soil
- Treat 6 weeks moist at 40°F or winter outdoors to break dormancy
- Move to 70°F with light, indoors or outdoors in spring, to germinate