

# black-eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia hirta*

Kingdom: Plantae  
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.



flower

## ILLINOIS RANGE



flowers



seeds



flowers

### **Aquatic Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

upland deciduous forests

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; edge; hill prairie