

FOR CONSERVATION PLANTINGS  
a

By

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
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and

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Augusta, Maine

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and the Maine Department of Transportation announce the release of Rudbeckia hirta L., black-eyed susan, PI-421671 (NY-5671). The variety name will be 'Golden Jubilee' in recognition of the 50 year anniversary of the Soil Conservation Movement, which has involved over 2 million farmers and land managers.

Black-eyed susan is a native forb that is locally adapted through much of the North American continent. The seed of 'Golden Jubilee' was collected by SCS plant materials personnel from a native stand south of Westminster, Vermont. This collection was one of 67 made during the mid-seventies and initially evaluated at the Big Flats Plant Materials Center, Corning, New York. After selection for advanced evaluation, 'Golden Jubilee' was isolated for seed production. Suitable uniformity was observed in succeeding generations.

'Golden Jubilee' black-eyed susan has broad basal and cauline leaves and long-peduncled heads typical of the species. Stems and leaves are scabrous. The ray flowers have golden-

yellow ligules, generally 2.5-3.5 cm. long, in bloom from June 26 thru September 7. Plant height under fertile conditions at Big Flats is a short 0.55 m. The seeds are not atypical, dull black with about 1,500,000 per pound.

The conservation uses of 'Golden Jubilee' include seeding mixes with grasses, legumes, and other forbs on disturbed soils. Roadside plantings, mine revegetation, stabilization of embankments, landfills and other waste areas where visual attractiveness is desired will benefit from the addition of 'Golden Jubilee' in the mix. Where erosion hazard is low, solid plantings of 'Golden Jubilee' will provide dramatic displays of golden-yellow color. As with other forbs it enhances wildlife values by attracting insects and providing browse. A reseeding biennial, 'Golden Jubilee' will remain in grass mixtures until the grass density precludes further seedling establishment.

'Golden Jubilee' was compared at Big Flats to 66 other native Northeast accessions and one commercial cultivar from 1977 through 1981. 'Golden Jubilee' was superior to all other entries in length of bloom period (14 weeks), lateness of flowering (September 7 ending), and disease and insect resistance (mildew and spittlebug). It was also shorter and more compact (55 cm X 55 cm size) than most of the other accessions. 'Golden Jubilee' was a reliable biennial whereas the commercial standard of comparison winterkilled each year. The ground cover rating for 'Golden Jubilee' was equal to the best accessions at 90 percent. Seed production capability was rated abundant.

'Golden Jubilee' has been evaluated in field plantings throughout the Northeast. It has proven winter-hardy and a reliable biennial at all locations. The visual quality, vigor, and effectiveness of the selection has been good at most locations, but can be adversely affected by drought and heavy weed competition. The soils adaptation of 'Golden Jubilee' ranges from clay loams to sands under normal rainfall conditions. The Maine DOT has cooperated in roadside testing in that state, where favorable public comment has resulted from planting of 'Golden Jubilee'. The selection has not been invasive or weedy at any test location.

Breeders seed of 'Golden Jubilee' will be maintained at the Big Flats Plant Materials Center, Corning, New York. The Soil Conservation Service does not intend to enter 'Golden Jubilee' into a seed certification program at this time. Seed will be made available from the Big Flats Plant Materials Center to commercial growers for the production of high quality seed.