Dakota™ Red Shield Coneflower

Rudbeckia hirta 'Dakota Red Shield'



Dakota Red Shield Coneflower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Gloriosa Daisy, Black Eyed Susan

Description:

This attractive selection features golden-yellow blooms with contrasting dark red eye-zones on top of sturdy stems; flowers continually from early summer into fall; best treated as an annual; wonderful along borders or in containers; perfect for cutting



Dakota Red Shield Coneflower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Dakota Red Shield Coneflower has masses of beautiful yellow daisy flowers with gold overtones, dark brown eyes and dark red centers at the ends of the stems from early summer to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its serrated pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Dakota Red Shield Coneflower is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and may require the occasional pruning to look its best. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Dakota Red Shield Coneflower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Dakota Red Shield Coneflower will grow to be about 15 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 20 inches apart. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year. However, this species tends to self-seed and may thereby endure for years in the garden if allowed.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Dakota Red Shield Coneflower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.