Beach Sunflower

Helianthus debilis

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Cucumberleaf Sunflower, Dune Sunflower

Description:

A spreading, clumping variety, producing plentiful, small, sunflower-like blooms, above dark green deltoid foliage; drought and salt tolerant; excellent for sunny spaces; use in coastal gardens, borders, naturalized areas or as a low hedge



Beach Sunflower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Beach Sunflower in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Beach Sunflower features showy clusters of yellow daisy flowers with dark brown eyes along the stems from early winter to late fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive glossy pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season. The brick red stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Beach Sunflower is an herbaceous perennial 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease
- Self-Seeding

Beach Sunflower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Beach Sunflower will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America..

Beach Sunflower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.