Maximilian Sunflower

Helianthus maximiliani



Maximilian Sunflower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Spacing: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

A tall native variety, producing plentiful, brilliant yellow daisy-like blooms, above rigid hairy stems clad with long, narrow, gray-green leaves; a valuable plant for wildlife that is great for large, perennial gardens where it has room to spread

Ornamental Features

Maximilian Sunflower features showy clusters of yellow daisy flowers with gold eyes along the stems from late summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its succulent narrow leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Maximilian Sunflower is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It is a good choice for attracting birds, 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;

- Disease
- Self-Seeding

Maximilian Sunflower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Maximilian Sunflower will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 feet apart. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. 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 should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in 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 type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America..

Maximilian Sunflower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.