

September Plant of the Month: 'Autumn Colors' Black-eyed Susan



Black-eyed Susan is a favorite perennial of southern gardens. The variety, 'Autumn Colors,' has gorgeous fiery red and bronze and golden blooms. *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Autumn Colors' fits in great with outdoor fall displays.

Growth Habit: This is a perennial plant that will grow to be about two feet tall. The large flower heads sit atop of the long stems. 'Autumn Colors' has green foliage with red, bronze, and golden yellow flowers with rust red centers. The blooms usually last from July through September.

Landscape Merit and Use: 'Autumn Colors' is grown for its' beautiful late summer to early fall flowers. They look great as a mass planting in a perennial bed, especially next to perennial grasses. These flowers also make great cut flowers. They tend to attract birds and butterflies, too.

Growing Conditions: *Rudbeckia* grows well in full sun to light shade. It is very heat tolerant. This plant prefers well-drained soil. .

Care: Black-eyed Susan can be susceptible to some pests, such as thrips aphids, or leaf minors. Insecticidal soap can help control these pests. Dead head and remove the spent blooms this will extend the blooming period. After three to four years, divide and re-space your plants to prevent over-crowding.