

Niagara College Greenhouse & Nursery Success Sheet No. 55

Rudbeckia fuldiga 'Goldsturm'

History

The name 'Goldsturm' means "gold storm" in English. This plant was discovered in 1937 by Heinrich Hagemann, who observed a glorious stand of *Rudbeckia fuldiga sullivantii* at Gebrueder Schuetz's nursery in the Czech Republic. Recognizing its superiority over other species, Hagemann convinced Karl Foerster, his employer, to propagate the discovery.

However, with World War II starting, the plant did not debut until 1949, with a new name: *Rudbeckia fuldiga* 'Goldsturm.' The Perennial Plant Association selected it as 1999's Perennial Plant of the Year. This is one of the most popular perennials of the past fifty years. The golden-yellow flowers shine worldwide in all types of gardens.

Description

Rudbeckias are bushy, upright and spreading plants with coarse, dark-green leaves and 1-2" golden-yellow petals that encircle a nearly black cone in the centre. They can reach 18-30" (45-75 cm) with a spread of 18-23" (45-60 cm), and they bloom from mid July until October.

Soils

These plants require no special soil, but they do prefer a fairly heavy clay base. They will do best in a well-drained, consistently moist soil.

Care

Rudbeckias are low-maintenance plants. They can perform well both in high heat and in cold temperatures as low as -35° C. Full sun or

partial shade will ensure lots of blooms from these reliable plants.

New plantings require mulching and watering. Well-established rudbeckias, on the other hand, are tough and drought-tolerant plants.

Pinching plants in June will create shorter, bushier stands of plants. Plants can easily be divided in spring or fall every three to five years. They propagate through seed or by underground creeping stems.

Diseases and Pests

Problems with mold, slugs, aphids, rust, smut and leaf spot are possible but rare with rudbeckias.

Landscape Value

These ever-blooming, low-maintenance, long-lived perennials will be a delight in the new garden or the established garden. Uses for these plants include cut flowers, dried flowers and specimen flowers. They bloom diligently for weeks, looking best when planted in masses or drifts. They can be used alone or with ornamental grasses in wildflower, naturalistic, border and cottage-style gardens.

Rudbeckia seeds attract birds during all seasons. Birds attracted are goldfinches in summer months and over-wintering birds in the winter months. Butterflies also enjoy the sweet nectar of these plants. The distinct advantage to planting *Rudbeckia fuldiga* 'Goldsturm' is its proven reliability, a quality that helps make it an award-winning perennial.

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