Giant Coneflower

Rudbeckia maxima

Plant Height: 4 feet

Flower Height: 7 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Cabbage Leaf Coneflower, Great Coneflower

Description:

This large variety produces semi-double yellow daisies with tall dark brown center cones in summer, high over cabbage-like, blue-green foliage; an outstanding cut flower; drought tolerant once established; wonderful along borders or in containers

Ornamental Features

Giant Coneflower has masses of beautiful semi-double yellow daisy flowers with dark brown eyes at the ends of the stems from early to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large oval leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Giant Coneflower 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.



Giant Coneflower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Giant Coneflower in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Giant Coneflower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



Giant Coneflower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Giant Coneflower will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity extending to 7 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 3 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 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 species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Giant Coneflower 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.