

FALSE SUNFLOWER 'SUMMER SUN'  
*Heliopsis helianthoides* var. *scabra* 'Sommersonne'



### Characteristics

- Type: Perennial
- Zone: 3 to 9
- Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
- Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet
- Bloom Time: June to August
- Bloom Description: Yellow rays and orange-yellow center disks
- Sun: Full sun
- Water: Dry to medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Flower: Showy, Good Cut
- Attracts: Butterflies
- Tolerate: Drought, Erosion, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

### Culture

'Sommersonne' is a compact, clump-forming, upright cultivar which typically grows 2-3' tall. Features single to double, daisy-like flowers 2-3" diameter with golden yellow rays and deep orange-yellow center disks atop stiff stems that seldom need staking. It is noted for its lengthy summer to early fall bloom period. Coarse, serrate, ovate to lanceolate, deep green foliage. Good fresh cut flower. Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates drought, but does better if regularly watered. Tolerates wide range of soils, including poor ones. Tolerates some light shade, but plants grown in too much shade tend to require support. Remove spent flowers to extend the blooming season. This cultivar comes true from seed.

### Noteworthy Characteristics

*Heliopsis helianthoides*, commonly called ox eye, is an upright, clump-forming, nearly glabrous, sunflower-like, short-lived perennial that is native to eastern and central North America. Flowers bloom throughout summer atop stiff stems clad with ovate, toothed leaves (to 6" long). Plants in the genus *Heliopsis* are both similar in appearance to and closely related to those in the genus *Helianthus*, the true sunflower. *Heliopsis* is sometimes commonly called false sunflower. Var. *scabra* differs from species plants by having hairy and rough-textured leaves and stems with the leaves being thicker.

### Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Red aphids are occasional visitors. Reportedly has some resistance to powdery mildew.

### Garden Uses

Provides long summer bloom for the perennial border or cutting garden.