

Johnson Brothers Garden Market

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African Sunset Black-Eyed Susan



African Sunset Black-Eyed Susan *Thunbergia alata* 'African Sunset'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Ornamental Features

African Sunset Black-Eyed Susan features bold peach tubular flowers with red overtones and brown throats along the stems from early summer to mid fall. Its serrated oval leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

African Sunset Black-Eyed Susan is an herbaceous perennial vine with a twining and trailing habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

African Sunset Black-Eyed Susan is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

African Sunset Black-Eyed Susan will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. As a climbing vine, it should either be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 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!



African Sunset Black-Eyed Susan flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

African Sunset Black-Eyed Susan is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.