

Maximilian Sunflower

(*Helianthus maximiliana*)

Native Range: Texas to Southern Canada

Sun/Shade: Prefers full sun

Flowers: Large yellow sunflowers that bloom on tall erect stems in late summer and early fall.

Landscape Use: Makes an awesome background flower as long as its lower portions are disguised since they shade themselves out showing dead foliage on the bottom. The newer growth up higher will look healthy. This perennial wildflower grows in ditches along many Hill Country roads where it is a show-stopper each fall. Its leaves are long and narrow looking and growing like a green *Salvia Leucantha* until it sends out its tall flower stems. It can be used in a wild and sunny native area as long as it gets some water.

Container Use: Can look good in a pot for a short period of time, but will need to be staked.

Size: For most of the growing season, it is a mound of low growing foliage about two feet tall. The flower stems do not lengthen until late summer when it can reach six feet tall.

Type: Flowering perennial.

Deer Resistance: Not enough information

Butterflies: Butterflies love it.

Drought Tolerance: Very drought tolerant but looks best with occasional watering.

Soil: Not particular about soil. Does well in rocky soil or even better with soil enhancement.

Water: Smart Watering Principle=Water well when first planted then allow to dry slightly, without wilting, then water deeply again, etc.

Fertilizer: Looks even better with regular fertilization.

Maintenance Tips: Lower shaded out foliage is crispy and easy to remove by sliding your hand up and down the stem until you leave only attractive green foliage.

Rating: High when in bloom or when used in the right spot.

Pictures: See the plant picture book in the appropriate section.