

# Flutter by!

## Rudbeckia



Rudbeckias are easy-to-grow perennials featuring golden, daisy-like flowers with black or purple centres, and include the popular black-eyed Susan.

### About This Plant

Rudbeckia's bright, summer-blooming flowers give the best effect when planted in masses in a border or wildflower meadow. Some species also have attractive grey-green foliage. In general, Rudbeckias are relatively drought-tolerant and disease-resistant. Flower colours include yellow and gold, and the plants grow 2 to 6 feet tall, depending on the variety.

### Site Selection

Select a site with full sun to light shade and well-drained soil.

### Planting Instructions

Plant in spring, spacing plants 2 to 3 feet apart, depending on the variety. Prepare the garden bed by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the pot the plant is in. Carefully remove the plant from its container and place it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Carefully fill in around the root ball and firm the soil gently. Water thoroughly.

### Care

Apply a thin layer of compost each spring, followed by a 2-inch layer of mulch to retain moisture and control weeds. Water plants during the summer if rainfall is less than 1 inch per week. After the first killing frost, cut stems back to an inch or two above soil line. Divide plants every 3 to 4 years as new growth begins in the spring, lifting plants and dividing them into clumps.



One of the special features of this wonderful cottage garden flower is that it attracts butterflies.

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*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5 v17*

Many times I'm inspired to write because of nature and the unique way God made something. I began thinking about the butterfly and about how it emerges into the beautiful creature that it is. I know you've probably all heard the analogy of the butterfly and new life in Christ. I love that thought but I was curious to know more about this little creature and so I went and read up on the subject of butterflies.

I found some amazing facts about the butterfly which was just a reminder once again of how intricately God made each creature from the big huge hippopotamus down to the insects.

Here are some things that stood out to me about the butterfly.

### **Butterflies have predators!**

As lovely as the butterfly is, there are other little creatures out there that prey on it - wasps, birds, snakes, and frogs to name just a few.

When we have that new life in Christ, we have a predator too. Just like the butterfly needs to be aware of his surroundings and how its predators can attack him, so do we as Christians. The devil is out there and he is seeking us out. He's our "adversary".

*"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter 5 v8*

### **Butterflies Need The Sun.**

Butterflies can't fly if their temperature is less than 86°. They cannot produce heat on their own and butterflies must rely on the sun to heat up their wings in order for them to move about. They have strong muscles but they can't fly without the sun to warm their bodies first.

I used to wonder why I'd see butterflies sometimes sitting on a branch, just sitting there, almost not moving for a very long time, with maybe just a slight movement of the wings. Apparently they were soaking up the sun in order to take flight.

Wow! That is how we are as Christians. We can't do things on our own. We need the "Son" to warm us as well. We don't move along very well in our own strength, do we? We have to rely on the Lord's strength and guidance before we can accomplish anything.

*"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4 v13*

### **Butterflies Can See Ultraviolet Light.**

Did you know that the butterfly has the ability to see things we humans cannot see? They have the ability to see ultraviolet light which helps vividly guide them so they can find nectar to drink.

As Christians we have "special" eyesight as well and we can see things others don't. Sometimes those without Christ just don't understand us Christians. We have the ability to see with the eyes of faith.

I think of all of those heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter 11 and all the things that happened because of their faith.

*"O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment. Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth,*

*if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”*  
Matthew 17 v20-21

**Conclusion:**

These butterfly traits make me think of David when he went to battle Goliath. He could see vividly what God was going to do. Don't you just love how David had been basking in the "Son" shine? He was ready to move for the Lord. That big old giant was taunting David and telling him how he was going to give his flesh to the birds and the beasts, but David was seeing with those eyes of faith. I just love this passage. It's one of those that send that surge through me that says, "Yes!" God is in control.

*“David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.’”* Samuel 17 v45-47.

My favourite part is when David says, "... I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel ..." We cannot do anything in our own strength. We sure can't "flutter" very far.

Going back to 2 Corinthians 5 v17, it states that *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*

We've got to be constantly soaking up God's Word and spending time with the "Son" of God before we can move forward and take flight.

**So, how are you fluttering?**