

# SUNFLOWER 'SUNNY SMILE'

*Helianthus annuus* 'Sunny Smile'



## Characteristics

- Type: Annual
- Zone: 2-11
- Blooms: Early Summer - Late Summer
- Habit: Dwarf
- Sun: Full Sun
- Plant Height: 12 in - 15 in
- Plant Width: 6 in - 8 in
- Bloom Size: 5 in
- Bloom Color: Dark Yellow, Gold
- Foliage Color: Light Green
- Light Requirements: Full Sun
- Moisture Requirements: Dry, Moist, well-drained
- Resistance: Disease Resistant, Drought Tolerant, Heat Tolerant, Pest Resistant
- Soil Tolerance: Normal, loamy, Poor
- Attracts: Birds, Butterflies

## Culture

The big Sunflower you can grow in a small pot! There are many dwarf Sunflowers out there these days, but none quite like Sunny Smile. Plant it in a 4 or 6 inch pot and it will grow a neat plant 12 to 15 inches tall with a single giant bloom fully 5 inches across. Or put it in the garden, where it remains just a bit over a foot high but branches beautifully, giving you 4 to 5 big blooms. Versatile, beautiful, and so easy to grow, it belongs in every sunny garden and flowerpot. 'Sunny Smile' blooms a bit earlier than other varieties, getting your Sunflower season off to an early and breathtakingly beautiful start. A mass planting is a joy, and this plant thrives even in poor, dry soil, so find those garden "trouble spots" and transform them.

## Noteworthy Characteristics

'Sunny Smile' offers large-coned flowers with bright yellow petals, the classic Sunflower pattern that has made this American native our national annual. Their dwarf size makes them so much easier to grow -- no staking. And their heavy, dependable bloom strength makes them an asset to children's gardens and a necessity in the vegetable patch. The Sunflower is the "4th sister" of the Native American Three Sisters planting combination (corn, beans, and squash), attracting birds to the late-summer and autumn to feast on the dried seeds in its huge cones. Of course, your blooms may never make it that long in the garden. Pollen-free, they are a joy to pick for indoor arrangements. Flower heads tend to follow the path of the sun each day from morning to night, hence the common name.

## Problems

Rust, leaf fungal spots and powdery mildew are somewhat common. Caterpillars and beetles often chew on the foliage.

## Garden Uses

Specimen or mass. Cottage gardens, bird gardens, wildflower or native plant gardens, beds, border fronts or containers.