

Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry' Little Henry Sweet Coneflower

The long-lasting, showy butter-yellow blooms of *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* 'Little Henry' (Little Henry Sweet Coneflower) are a symbol of summer. This compact, clump-forming variety features uniquely narrow quilled petals, creating an eye-catching geometric display. Dark green basal foliage emerges in spring and grows to 2.5-3' tall. At the height of summer, bold yellow flowers with chocolate-brown centers rise above the foliage (to 4' tall) and make wonderful cut flowers. The upright, compact form makes it well-suited in many garden settings, from formal border to naturalized prairie landscapes. Plants thrive in medium soils in full sun, but can tolerate part shade and periods of drought. By fall, dark brown seed heads contrast starkly against golden ornamental grasses. If left through winter, seedheads offer a highly attractive food resource to goldfinches, chickadees, juncos, and small songbirds.

Botanical Name: *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* 'Little Henry'

Common Name: Little Henry Sweet Coneflower

Family: Asteraceae

Nativity: Great Lakes Native

USDA Zone: 4-9

Light Type: Full Sun to Light Shade

Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Medium moisture, well-drained

Soil Moisture: Dry, Moist

Typical height (ft): 2.5-4'

Typical width (ft): 2-2.5'

Foliage: Dark Green

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom: Butter-yellow

Ecological features: Provides pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies. Songbirds eat the seeds in winter.

Tolerance of: Deer, rabbit, heat, humidity, drought

Additional notes: Petals are rolled, appearing to be quills; appropriate for rain gardens.

Companion plants: October Skies Aster (*Aster oblongifolius* 'October Skies'), Calico Aster (*Aster lateriflorus*), Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Bicknell's Sedge (*Carex bicknellii*), Shenandoah or Rotstrahlbush Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* 'Rotstrahlbusch' or 'Shenandoah'), Sedums, Nepeta, ornamental grasses

For more information see:

<http://www.perennials.com/plants/rudbeckia-subtomentosa-henry-eilers.html>

<http://www.terranovanurseries.com/product/rudbeckia-little-henry/>

<https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rudbeckia-subtomentosa-little-henry>

Images of *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* 'Little Henry'



Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry' -14702.jpg

Upright, dense, leafy form with terminal flowers



Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry'-2.jpeg

Flower petals are slender with a slight flare to the ends. Reddish brown centers



Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry'-4.jpg

Frosted Rudbeckia seed heads in winter.



Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry'-3.jpeg

Dark Rudbeckia seed heads in fall contrast with golden grasses



Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry'-5.jpg

Rudbeckia 'Henry Eilers' paired with rattlesnake master and a branching aster species. 'Little Henry' would layer lower.

Image choices for narrative:

Choice 1:

Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry'-2.jpeg

Flower petals are slender with a slight flare to the ends. Reddish brown centers

Choice 2:

Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry' -14702.jpg

Upright, dense, leafy form with terminal flowers