



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Borrichia frutescens¹

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Introduction

The Sea Oxeye Daisy is a true beach plant and may be used in the landscape as a flowering hedge or ground cover (Fig. 1). It spreads by rhizomes and attains a height of 2 to 4 feet. The foliage of this plant is fleshy and gray-green in color. The flowering heads of *Borrichia frutescens* have yellow rays with brownish-yellow disc flowers, and these flowers attract many types of butterflies. Each flower is subtended by a hard, erect, sharp bract. The fruits are small, inconspicuous, four-sided achenes.

General Information

Scientific name: *Borrichia frutescens*

Pronunciation: bor-RICK-ee-uh froo-TESS-enz

Common name(s): Sea-Oxeye

Family: *Compositae*

Plant type: ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: mass planting; ground cover; attracts butterflies

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: moderate



Figure 1. Sea-Oxeye.

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: terminal spine

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-69, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999. Please visit the EDIS web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf shape: obovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow
Flower characteristic: year-round flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: gray/silver

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: extended flooding; acidic; alkaline; sand; loam;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: good
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

The Sea Oxeye Daisy is native to salt water wetlands in south Florida, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean and is commonly associated with Mangroves. It fills swales and ditches on our barrier islands and will endure brackish conditions and diverse soils. Sea Oxeye requires full sun and is drought tolerant but will not bear over-watering or over-fertilizing. It takes shearing well.

Sea Oxeye is propagated from seeds or cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.