



Beach Dune Sunflower

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(*Helianthus debilis*)

Instant ID

- A sprawling plant producing yellow, daisy-like flowers
- Rough, triangular leaves grow two to three inches long and are arranged alternately along the stem
- Grows to one to two feet tall and three to four feet wide
- Blooms year-round in most locations

Native Niches

- Found growing on coastal dunes along the Atlantic and gulf coasts of Florida
- The western subspecies is endemic (only found) in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee counties.
- Prefers full sun exposure



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Plant Particulars

- Flower heads follow the direction of the sun
- Can grow in nutrient-poor, sandy soils and has a high drought tolerance
- Has a fast growth rate that allows for larger clumps to form
- An important sand binder for beach dunes

Population Protection

- Keeping the subspecies separated prevents hybridization
- A significant part of coastal strands (a community of plants along the shore which serve as a buffer for hurricanes and other storms)
- Provides habitat for native species and supports the biodiversity of Floridian ecosystems

