

Showy Goldeneye

- **Scientific Name:** *Heliomeris multiflora*
(Asteraceae Family)
- **Height:** 18" to 36"
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4
- **Wildlife Value:** Attracts native bees and butterflies, seeds for finches, siskins, sparrows, and chipmunks.

Showy goldeneye is a native herbaceous perennial that brightens many of our western landscapes. It's one among thousands of species in the composite family (Aster family) but one of only 4 species of the *Heliomeris* genus. The bright yellow ray flowers are long blooming and bring a sunny golden color to the garden. The flowers attract a wide variety of native bees, insects, and butterflies, but it's the tiny seeds that the birds enjoy. Watch for American goldfinches and pine siskins doing acrobatic tricks as they try to perch on the thin flimsy stems and reach for the drying seed heads in late summer and fall.

Heliomeris multiflora is a subalpine species and grows best from 6,000–9,000 ft but does very well in lower elevation gardens. It naturally occurs with sagebrush, juniper, spruce, fir and in cottonwood communities and is seen growing on hillsides, in meadows and along roadsides across the west. Showy goldeneye is easy to grow, is often seeded in native plant restorations, and is used in mixed borders and meadow gardens.



This beautiful perennial grows 24–36" tall in clumps of multiple stems which are topped by small golden flowers that resemble miniature sunflowers. It blooms midsummer to October providing wonderful fall color. It prefers full sun to partial shade, is highly drought tolerant (needing little supplemental water once established), and grows best in loamy, sandy type soil. It naturalizes by seed into other areas of the garden and is easy to propagate by lightly sowing its seed in the fall.

Plant this cheerful beauty in the garden for a lush splash of gold and as a food source for many of our native feathered and non-feathered friends.

- Paulette Epple

