



12–18 in.

Nectar



Photo by Mary Keim

Florida greeneyes

Florida greeneyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*) is a perennial herbaceous wildflower endemic to Florida. It occurs naturally in sandhills, dry pine flatwoods, and mixed upland forests, as well as along dry roadsides. It typically blooms in spring and summer, but may bloom year-round in southern climates.

Description

Florida greeneyes' flowers consist of vibrant yellow ray florets surrounding a head of greenish-yellow tubular disk florets. The flowers are held at their base by a cup of soft greenish-yellow bracts. Seeds develop in the bracts and mature into a distinctive, platelike seedhead. Only ray florets produce seed.



Photo by Nancy Bessett

The plant is a profuse bloomer.



Photo by Jean McColgan

Gulf fritillary on Florida greeneyes

The plant's dark green basal leaves are ovately shaped with scalloped margins when young; they become more deeply lobed as they mature. Stems are hairy.

Florida greeneyes (as well as other *Berlandiera* species) have been informally referred to as "chocolate flowers" because the open disk florets emit a subtle chocolatey fragrance.

Butterflies and bees

Florida greeneyes attracts a variety of bees and butterflies.

Planting

Plantings can be established by seed or plants. Space plants as close as 12 inches apart or mix with grasses and other wildflowers.



Photo by Stacey Marrazzo

Young leaf margins are scalloped.

Seeds

Seeds are commercially available, or collect your own after ray florets drop and seeds are dry.

Plants

Florida greeneyes is available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. It is sold in quart and gallon containers.

Care

Established plants are drought tolerant, so supplemental watering might be needed only during extended dry periods. Cut old flowerheads to extend flowering and help keep the plant looking neat.

Propagation by division is possible but may be difficult, as plants are joined by a thick tuberous root.

Site conditions

Florida greeneyes is easy to establish in the garden. It grows best in full sun to high pine shade and in dry to moderately moist, well-drained sandy or rocky soils. Its tuberous root, which can be as thick as 12 inches in older plants, makes it very drought tolerant. Once established, Florida greeneyes can form large clumps and produce copious blooms, creating a beautiful display.

Hardiness zones

Florida greeneyes is best suited for zones 8B–10B.



Photo by Peter Connolly

Florida greeneyes' distinctive, platelike seedhead