

# *Borrichia frutescens* Sea Oxeye<sup>1</sup>

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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

**Growth rate:** slow



Figure 1. Sea-Oxeye.

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** terminal spine

**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

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

and diverse soils. Sea Oxeye requires full sun and is drought tolerant but will not bear over-watering or overfertilizing. It takes shearing well.

Sea Oxeye is propagated from seeds or cuttings.

## Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

## 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