**Borrichia arborescens** Silver Sea Oxeye, Tall Sea Oxeye

Edward F. Gilman

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**Introduction**
The silver sea oxeye is an upright to roundish shrub that grows 2 to 4 feet in height near brackish water (Fig. 1). The leaves of this plant are fleshy, leathery, and gray-green in color. The daisy-like flowers have yellow disks that are larger than its yellow rays; the yellow color of the flower is subtle. Flowers are borne mostly in the spring but some can be seen into the summer. This plant has fruits that are small, sharp, needle-like achenes.

**Scientific name:** Borrichia arborescens
**Pronunciation:** bor-RICK-ee-uh ar-bor-ESS-enz
**Common name(s):** silver sea oxeye, tall sea oxeye daisy
**Family:** Compositae

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**General Information**

| **Plant type:** | shrub |
| **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 4 feet |
| **Spread:** | 2 to 3 feet |
| **Plant habit:** | upright |
| **Plant density:** | moderate |
| **Growth rate:** | slow |
| **Texture:** | medium |

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**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

**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 particularly showy; typically multitrunked or clumping stems
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: usually not a problem
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**
Silver sea oxeye is a totally salt-resistant plant that performs well as a low hedge or ground cover near the ocean. This plant takes shearing quite well and is often used in a garden as an edging along a sidewalk.

The silver sea oxeye tolerates brackish conditions and varied soils. It requires a position in the landscape that receives full sun and can survive the extremely dry conditions of winter and early spring. It should adapt to conditions in many landscapes, provided they are not irrigated regularly.

This plant may be propagated from seeds and cuttings.

**Pests and Diseases**
No pests or diseases are of major concern.