

Botanical Name: Encelia californica

Common Name: California encelia, Coast sunflower

Type of Plant: Dicot: subshrub Family Asteraceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a loosely-constructed plant with a rounded to mounding habit; is rather compact in dry sunny sites - more open in shaded or wetter locations

Height 2 - 4ft (5ft) Spread equal or more Growth Rate moderate - rapid

Environment:

Exposure grows well in both full or partial sun - avoid heavy shade

Soil tolerates most; thrives in both clay and sandy soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 19-24): prefers sunny sites near coast

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, oval-elliptic; dark green, sparsely covered with hairs; 2-4" long (larger if growing in shaded or wet locations?)

Flowers bright yellow "daisy" type flowers with brownish centers, 2" across, in open clusters or solitary at ends of stems: April - June, intermittent in summer

Fruit a tiny achene

Propagation: seed or softwood cuttings

Usage: valued as a quick-effects low to mid-sized filler for its profuse flower display in spring months; ideal for informal Mediterranean or desert-theme gardens; good for slopes

Landscape Care:

Watering thrives on an occasional deep-soaking after established (2x a month in summer); tolerates heavier watering but becomes leggy

Fertilizing none required - benefits from a mild feeding in spring

Pruning head back and thin out strongly after blooming to control size

Pests/Diseases relatively free - subject to root-rot in wet clay sites

Other frequently used as a component of hydroseed mixes for slopes

Origin: low coastal sage scrub habitats in coastal regions of So. Calif.