

Borrichia arborescens Silver Sea Oxeye, Tall Sea Oxeye¹

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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.



Figure 1. Silver sea oxeye.

General Information

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*

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



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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.