Maximilian Sunflower *Helianthus maximiliani*

- **Maximilian sunflower** is a tall, perennial prairie plant. Perennials work well in plantings for native pollinators because they can compete successfully with existing grasses and other plants once established.
- This sunflower can be planted directly from seed, but in some cases it helps to germinate the plants in pots and transplant outside. This gives the plant a jump start and allows it to establish ahead of competing vegetation.

- A study on stratification of five native wildflower species conducted at OSU showed the highest germination of Maximilian sunflower (up to 98% of viable seeds) after 6 to 10 weeks of stratification at 5ºC. As with most wildflowers, fall planting is recommended unless you can stratify the seeds prior to planting. Perennials can take several years to fully establish, so be patient.

- Plant height varies with soil fertility and moisture, but it can grow up to 10 ft. tall and can send roots down 15 ft. deep.
- Maximilian sunflower does well in landscape plantings, but due to its height may need some support. It is considered a decreaser under grazing, and it is drought tolerant.

Location at Kerr Center:
Office landscape, Cannon Horticulture Farm, native prairie. Transplants started from purchased seed.

Location in OK:
Statewide. Frequent on dry prairies.

Blooms:
August-October

[1] *Stratification Improves Seed Germination of Five Native Wildflower Species. Carlma B. Bratcher, John M. Dole, and Janet C. Cole. Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK HortScience28(9):899-901. 1993.*

MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER

NATIVE BEES	HONEY BEES	BUTTERFLIES	BEETLES	MOTHS	FLIES	WASPS	OTHER
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	

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