

A NEW FORM OF HELIANTHUS FROM SOUTH-WEST FLORIDA

Fred W. Oswald

HELIANTHUS TUBEROSUS f. OSWALDIAE Oswald, f. nov.

Haec forma a forma typica speciei differt habente tubera grandes nodis numerosis; nodi plerumque stipitati. Cutis perpallida bruneola, crassa duraque. Tubera fasciculata proxime infra vel prope caules, illa infra rhizomatibus nullis. Tubera nova pullulantia statim juxta plantas adultas. Caules purpureo-rubri pilis rigidis niveis. Folia viridia, lutescentia ad fusca post anthesin, plantae mox effectae incrementa nova foliacea angulo caulium supernorum sub semino-capitulis siccatis, aliquando reflorentes floribus mendosis.

This form differs from the typical form of the species in having tubers large with numerous knobs; the knobs generally stalked. Skin very light tan, thick and tough. Tubers clustered immediately below or near stems, those below lacking rhizomes. New tubers sprouting promptly next to matured plants. Stems purple-red with stiff whitish hairs. Leaves green, turning yellow to brown after the flowering season, soon developing new leafy growths from the angle of the upper stems below the dried seed heads and occasionally reflowering with imperfect blossoms.

In f. nebrascensis Cockerell, and alexandri Cockerell, the skin is thin. In purpurellus Cockerell, the tubers are purple-red. In fusiformis Cockerell, the tubers are occasionally knobbed, but not stalked. In var. multituberculatus Cockerell, the tubers are completely covered with unstalked protuberances. Stems are purple-red but leaves do not become red as in albus Cockerell. Leaves puberulent underneath, not densely soft-hairy as in var. subcanescens Gray.

Fast growing, tall, much-branched and many-flowered plants; the heavy tops often bending the purple-red stalks to earth.

The holotype of this form was collected by the author and his wife on July 4, 1979, 110 feet west of

Magnolia Drive and 300 feet south of Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers, Florida, and is deposited in the Lundell Herbarium at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

This tall sunflower is named in honor of Eileen Wolde Oswald, co-discoverer with the author.



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