

Marsh gumplant

Asteraceae

Grindelia stricta

var. angustifolia



In the Garden

This evergreen perennial sub-shrub grows to 3-5' tall and 3-5' wide.

Gumplants can be identified by the glossy, gummy liquid on the flower buds before they open (hence the name gumplant). In fact, the gummy substance was once made into a chewing gum and an adhesive.

Marsh gumplant grows in wet soils along with bulrush and other marsh plants. It produces many bright yellow flowers per bush from spring to fall.

Marsh gumplant is also a very important plant in restoration work and for providing protection and habitat for the California Clapper Rail.

Sun: Full Sun, Part Shade

Water: Light, Moderate, High

Soil: Clay, Loam, Sand

Other: Attracts Butterflies, Attracts Birds, Attracts Bees

Ecological Value:

Excellent butterfly nectar source; birds & small mammals eat the seeds, use plant as shelter and nesting site. In particular provides valuable habitat for the endangered California clapper rail.

Historical Uses:

The gummy substance was used by Native Americans like glue and also as a topical skin lotion to treat skin afflictions, including rashes caused by poison oak.

Native Distribution:

Native to California and is also found outside of California, but is confined to western North America.

Elevation:

Between 0 and 33 feet

Plant Communities:

Wetland-riparian

Habitat:

Salt-marsh, coastal

