Viguiera dentata (A.J. Cavanilles) C.P.J. Sprengel

Plateau Goldeneye

(Helianthus dentatus, Viguiera helianthoides, Viguiera pedunculata)

- Alternately known as Chimalacate, Goldeneye, Sunflower Goldeneye, Toothleaf, Toothleaf Goldeneye, this herbaceous perennial or subshrub in the family Asteraceae is native to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Mexico, and Central America; the 2” to 6” (8”) long, simple, opposite (basal) to alternate (distal), ovate, rhombic, to nearly deltoid leaves are fairly coarse textured and plants vary in stature and density of habit, ranging from 1’ to 6’ (8’) tall with an equal or greater spread; the specific epithet refers to the serrate to shallowly dentate margins of the leaves; petioles, leaves, peduncles, and achenes are hairy.

- The composite flowers are reminiscent of Coreopsis with a button-like central cluster of fifty or more tiny fertile yellow disk flowers surrounded by approximately ten (to fourteen) showy ½” to ¾” long light to golden yellow ray flowers with notched tips and impressed nearly parallel veins; plants bloom in late summer to fall and flowers are effective for several weeks.

- Plants can be grown in a wide range of well drained soils and variable sun exposures, however full to partial sun is needed for best flowering; Plateau Goldeneye is adaptable as to soil pH and displays good drought tolerance; plants can be used as perennials in USDA hardiness zones 8 to 13, with proper provenance selection.

- Plateau Goldeneye should be considered for greater use as a fall accent or background plant for mixed or perennial borders; with the high degree of variation present in the species, selection for forms to fit a variety of niches in the late season landscape could be developed; the genus name honors the 19th century French botanist and physician L.G.A. Viguier.

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