



# The Herb Society of America

## Promising Plants Profiles

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### ***Berlandiera pumila***

**Genus:** *Berlandiera*

**Specific Epithet:** *pumila*

**Common Name:** soft greeneyes

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Flower Color:** yellow

**Form:** perennial

**Hardiness Zone:** 7

**Height:** 1'

**Soil:** well-drained garden soil

**Sun:** full sun



*Berlandiera pumila*

**Uses:** fragrance gardens,  
chocolate gardens

Native to the sandhills of the southeastern United States, soft greeneyes is a perfect plant for the chocolate garden. With a mound of hairy basal leaves, the flowering stems grow to approximately 1 foot tall and are topped by a single yellow daisy-like flower midsummer through frost. The centers of the flower are a light, chartreuse green, giving the plant its common name. Soft greeneyes grows best in well-drained garden soil in full sun and is hardy to zone 7. The flowers have a delicious scent of chocolate, and the plant makes a charming addition to a fragrant garden. Another species, *Berlandiera lyrata*, also native to the Southeast, also has chocolate-scented flowers. Its growth habit is a little more lax, and the flower stems are longer. We grow both species in the National Herb Garden in Washington, D.C. *B. pumila* has been hardy for the past two winters with no problem. We keep *B. lyrata* in the coldframe because we are worried about its hardiness, but for no good reason.

– James Adams, Curator of the National Herb Garden, Promising Plants Presentation, 2002

Photo by James Adams

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