# **California brittlebush**

## W-ENCA-0.25-LB

## Encelia californica

**What Is The? ( Seo Description 100-200 Words):** California Brittlebush (Encelia californica), or California Bush Sunflower, is a fast-growing shrub with bright yellow daisy-like flowers. Native to Southern California’s coastal sage scrub, it forms a mounding shrub 3–5 ft tall and wide. From late winter through spring it explodes in blooms, providing nectar for bees and butterflies. This hardy shrub thrives in full sun and dry, well-drained soils, requiring little to no supplemental water once established. Excellent for naturalizing on slopes or coastal landscapes, it helps control erosion and adds a burst of long-lasting color. Deer tend to avoid it due to resinous foliage.

## **Growing Conditions**

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| **Sun Requirements (full Sun, Full Sun To Partial Shade, Shade)** | Full Sun |
| **Soil Preference** | Well-drained (sandy/gravelly preferred); tolerates clay if not soggy |
| **Soil Ph** | Neutral to alkaline |
| **Days To Maturity** | 150–180 days (blooms first year from fall sowing/planting) |
| **Height When Mature** | 3–5 ft |
| **Seeding Rate** | N/A (more often planted as seedlings; if direct seeding, ~1 oz per 500 sq ft) |
| **Planting Depth** | About 1/8 inch (if seeding) |

### Brilliant Bloom Display

Abundant sun-yellow flowers transform spring landscapes and feed pollinators.

### Drought Hardy

Adapted to dry summers—minimal water after establishment.

### Erosion Control

Fast growth and spreading roots help stabilize slopes.

### Wildlife Friendly

Nectar and pollen for native bees and butterflies; cover for birds.

### Low Maintenance Native

No fertilizer needed; deer and rabbits generally avoid it.

## **Plant Characteristics**

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| **Sun / Shade** | Full Sun |
| **Height When Mature** | 3–5 ft |
| **Seeding Rate** | N/A |
| **Uses** | Coastal restoration, dry shrub borders, slopes, pollinator habitats, low-water landscaping |
| **Color** | Bright yellow with dark centers; gray-green foliage |
| **Water** | Low—occasional deep soak in extreme drought only |
| **Native / Introduced** | Native to coastal Southern California |
| **Life Form** | Perennial shrub (semi-evergreen) |