

## References

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# Coreopsis

## A Guide To Identifying and Enjoying Florida's State Wildflower



ENH867 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

**T**HE GENUS *COREOPSIS* IS FLORIDA'S STATE WILDFLOWER. The *Coreopsis* species are commonly referred to as tickseeds because the flat small fruit (achene) is ovalish to round and has two short spines that give it a bug-like appearance. Tickseed flowers generally have eight showy ray flowers ("petals") that are usually toothed at their ends. All tickseeds in Florida, except Swamp Tickseed, have yellow ray flowers.

There are 13 tickseed species that occur in Florida, two of which do not occur in any other part of the world. Until 2001, seed of only two species have been sown by Florida Department Of Transportation - Golden Tickseed and Lanceleaf Tickseed. However, starting in 2002, FDOT will probably be planting seed of Goldenmane Tickseed and Leavenworth's Tickseed harvested from plants that are adapted to our climate and have been produced by Florida growers. In the future, it is hoped that seed from other Florida-adapted tickseed species will be produced by Florida growers.

In this pamphlet, general information is provided about flowering, life cycle, abundance, and the types of habitat in which tickseeds grow in Florida. This information refers to naturally occurring populations, except where noted.

**Common name:** While there may be many common names for a species, the most frequently used names are listed.

**Roadside frequency:** This rating is provided to help you determine the likelihood of seeing the various tickseed species along roadsides. It is based on information in the references listed at the end of this pamphlet, and personal experience.

**Life cycle:** Annual—plant complete its life cycle in one growing season; dies after fruit (seed) mature; Perennial—plant grows year after year; does not die after fruit (seed) mature but the top growth may die back; new shoots will emerge the next growing season.

**Flowering:** This refers to the main flowering season; however, keep in mind that plants found in the southern parts of its range will flower earlier than northern populations. And given Florida's warm climate, it is not unusual for plants to occasionally flower in seasons other than noted.

**Height in flower:** This is the typical height of a species when it's flowering. However, a plant could be taller or shorter than it's characteristic height under extremes of soil moisture, fertility, or shade. Also, plants growing along roadsides may be shorter than usual if they are in the mow zone.

**Habitat:** Information is provided as to where this species normally grows. The phrase 'disturbed site' means roadsides, lawns, abandoned fields, vacant lots, grazed fields, etc.

**Range maps:** The map of Florida next to the flower of each species shows the documented occurrence of that species in Florida counties. The maps are courtesy of "Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants" (see References), and are used with permission of Dr. Richard Wunderlin.



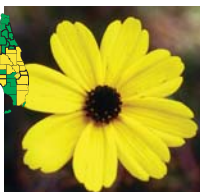
***Coreopsis basalis***

**Common name:** Goldenmane  
 Tickseed; Dye Flower  
**Roadside frequency:** Occasional; locally abundant  
**Life Cycle:** Annual  
**Flowering:** Spring  
**Height in flower:** 1 - 1 1/2 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in sunny, disturbed sites that have dry, sandy soil.



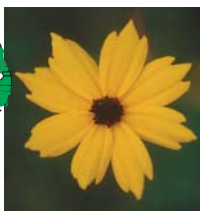
***Coreopsis floridana*\***

**Common name:** Florida Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Occasional  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Fall, winter  
**Height in flower:** 2 - 3 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in moist pinelands, prairies, and edges of cypress swamps; moist ditches and swales.



***Coreopsis gladiata***

**Common name:** Coastalplain Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Occasional  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Summer, fall  
**Height in flower:** 2 - 3 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in moist pinelands, prairies, and edges of cypress swamps; moist ditches and swales.



***Coreopsis grandiflora***

**Common name:** Largeflower Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Rare  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Spring, Summer  
**Height in flower:** 1 - 2 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in sunny, disturbed sites.



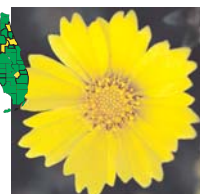
***Coreopsis integrifolia***

**Common name:** Fringeleaf Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Rare  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Fall  
**Height in flower:** 1 - 2 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in floodplains, and river and stream banks.



***Coreopsis lanceolata***

**Common name:** Lanceleaf Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Occasional  
**Life Cycle:** Short-lived Perennial  
**Flowering:** Spring, summer  
**Height in flower:** 10 - 15 inches (common garden varieties planted by city, county, or state transportation departments may be up to 2 feet tall)  
**Habitat:** Grows in sunny sites that have dry, sandy soil.



NOTE: Leaves of this species vary from smooth to very hairy.

***Coreopsis leavenworthii*\***

**Common name:** Leavenworth's Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Common  
**Life Cycle:** Annual to short-lived perennial  
**Flowering:** Summer in North Florida to year-round in South Florida.  
**Height in flower:** 1 - 2 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in moist pinelands and disturbed sites; moist ditches and swales.



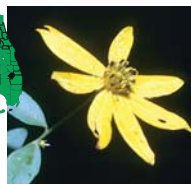
***Coreopsis linifolia***

**Common name:** Texas Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Occasional  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Fall  
**Height in flower:** 2 - 4 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in moist pinelands, prairies, and edges of cypress swamps; moist ditches and swales



***Coreopsis major***

**Common name:** Greater Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Infrequent  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Summer  
**Height in flower:** 2 - 3 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in sunny, sites that have dry, sandy soil.



***Coreopsis nudata***

**Common name:** Georgia Tickseed; Swamp Coreopsis  
**Roadside frequency:** Frequent  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Spring  
**Height in flower:** 2 - 4 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in moist pinelands and prairies, as well as marshes and swamps; moist ditches and swales.



***Coreopsis pubescens***

**Common name:** Star Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Rare  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Summer  
**Height in flower:** 1 - 4 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in moist pinelands.



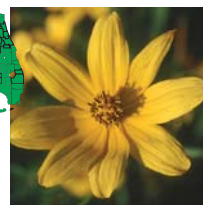
***Coreopsis tinctoria***

**Common name:** Golden Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Rare, except where planted by city, county, or state transportation departments  
**Life Cycle:** Annual to short-lived perennial  
**Flowering:** Summer  
**Height in flower:** 1 - 3 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in sunny, moist, disturbed sites; moist ditches and swales.



***Coreopsis tripteris***

**Common name:** Tall Tickseed  
**Roadside frequency:** Rare  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering:** Summer  
**Height in flower:** 2 - 4 feet  
**Habitat:** Grows in moist hardwood or hardwood/pine forests.



\* Endemic (worldwide distribution is limited to Florida)

PRESENT  
 NOT PRESENT